

## UK denies deal after Cooper is freed by Iran

THE British businessman Roger Cooper returned to England yesterday after spending five years in Iranian jails branded a spy.

David Reddaway, the British chargé d'affaires, formally approached the Tehran authorities last week after a senior Iranian official said Mr Cooper could be pardoned if Britain asked for an amnesty.

Iran linked the case with that of a student accused of bombing a

bookshop selling Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*. Charges against the student were dropped, but Douglas Hogg, the foreign minister, denied there had been a deal.

Mr Hogg said there could be no further improvement in relations with Iran until British hostages in Lebanon were freed. Diplomatic ties were broken in 1988 after the death sentence was passed on Rushdie, but were resumed last October.

## Jail 'not as bad as you think'

By JOE JOSEPH

SLIGHTLY dizzy from the first sips of freedom and unsteady after 36 hours without sleep, Roger Cooper strolled into Heathrow yesterday morning, dabbed on some lip-stick and made light of his five years behind bars. "Anyone who has been to an English public school and served in the British army is quite at home in a Third World prison."

Later, he made another joke with a sting. "I was told, unofficially, that I had two sentences. A death sentence and a 10-year sentence. My first question

was "Which are you going to carry out first?" What kept him going? "Sheer bloody-mindedness."

Mr Cooper's brother, Paul, and his daughter, Gisu, thought he looked thinner. Yet, in his grey pin-stripes and businessman's blue and white shirt, he somehow appeared more sprightly after years in captivity than many Britons merely recovering from the strains of the Easter holidays.

He was jolted back into London life by a flood of television camera lights, by reporters yelling questions and by photographers who whined, every 30 seconds or so, for Gisu to kiss her father on the cheek just once more.

The jolt outside Heathrow will be even greater. In Mr Cooper's absence Mrs Thatcher has left the stage to Mr Major. Gaza and *The Independent* have arrived, the poll tax and *The Sunday Correspondent* have been and gone. Mr Cooper will have to get used to small five pound notes, to the chirrup of portable telephones and to the even shriller Kylie Minogue. Last night he was trying to come to terms with world events, particularly with changes in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

"I only knew late last night, towards midnight, that I was going to be free. So I'm still in a state of shock," he said. "We were heading towards the airport. I asked, 'Am I still a prisoner of war?' They said, 'Yes, you are still a prisoner, but your sentence is temporarily under suspension.' It was not until he arrived at Mehrabad International Airport, was met by David Reddaway, the British chargé d'affaires, and boarded a Lufthansa flight for Frankfurt that it sank in. He was free.

"It's still a mystery for me how I got out," Mr Cooper,

55, told reporters, but he added that he was grateful to certain Iranian officials close to President Rafsanjani - he called them pragmatists - who pressed for his release.

"The Iran that set me free is not the Iran that arrested me. There have been changes."

Trying to be "as positive as I can", Mr Cooper said Iran's notorious Evin high-security prison was "not as bad as you probably think. When I first got there, having been transferred from another prison, I was very worried. But it turned out to be much better than the first prison I was in. There was a lot of boredom. But food was always plentiful. I was in solitary confinement for a lot of the time, largely out of choice. In my early stages, I made up various games and intellectual exercises. I invented a wonderful game. If you can patent a game, and I don't think you can, I would be a millionaire." One game he called *Flick-It*, a sort of armchair cricket that involved

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Background and profiles, page 2  
Richard Owen, page 12



## Hostages' friends hail positive step

THE release of Roger Cooper yesterday raised hopes that Western hostages being held in Lebanon might soon be freed. Mr Cooper guessed that Britain's Terry Waite, John McCarthy and Jack Mann could be out in a couple of months, but he tempered his optimism with the warning: "It would be wrong to hold out hope for those people."

John Major welcomed Mr Cooper's return home, saying: "We have been working hard for his release. Our thoughts are also with the British hostages in Lebanon and their families. We hope that they, too, will be released."

But a senior pro-Iranian

fundamentalist leader in Beirut said: "Despite all the fuss by Western diplomats and the press, the hostage issue is at a standstill." And campaigners for Mr McCarthy emphasised that Mr Cooper had been held in different circumstances from the hostages. Nevertheless, Catherine Comerford of the Friends of John McCarthy said: "With the new ties between Iran and Britain, it is looking more positive."

Mr Waite's cousin, John, said: "The release of Roger Cooper does brighten the sky a heck of a lot. The door has opened a little further and we hope the government will continue to push on it."



Released: Roger Cooper, freed after five years in an Iranian jail, with his daughter, Gisu, at Heathrow airport yesterday

## Commons enquiry to look at Iraq blacklist

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A PARLIAMENTARY enquiry is to consider allegations that British-based companies acted as financial fronts for President Saddam Hussein to build up the military might of Iraq and his own personal fortune.

As the Labour leadership demanded a government statement on the American government's decision to blacklist 32 firms based in Britain, it emerged that the all-party Commons trade and industry committee will consider evidence on the issue in an investigation, to be launched later this month.

The committee decided last week to go ahead with a two-part enquiry into arms exports to Iraq, starting with the collection of written evidence from companies and government departments. Public hearings will begin in the early summer.

The enquiry was originally to have been into the Iraqi "supergun" affair but after the Gulf war its terms have been widened to cover defence-related exports since 1984. Last night, it became clear that the exposure by Washington of Britain as the apparent centre of an Iraqi financial and arms procurement network would be covered by the investigation. John Gilbert, MP for Dudley East and a senior Labour member of the committee, said: "The United States blacklist will of course be relevant to our investigation. Indeed, I would assume that all the companies named would be invited to give evidence." Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat member of the committee, said: "This information suggests that what we have learnt so far in Britain is the tip of the iceberg. More trade than anyone in Parliament ever guessed has been conducted between British firms and the Iraqi government."

Labour demanded a statement from Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, on the blacklist. Gordon Brown, his Labour shadow, said: "It is now time for us to be told which companies broke the arms embargo against Iraq and what action will be taken. If any firm did break the embargo, then the strongest possible action should be in-

structed. If any of these firms has done no wrong, then its name should be cleared immediately."

Close co-operation between authorities in America and Britain led to the compilation of the blacklist, it emerged yesterday.

Lord Hesket, minister of state at the department of trade and industry, said yesterday that Britain had been "very helpful" to the United States Office of Foreign Assets Control. However, some of the firms who appear on the list denied that they had sold equipment to Iraq which could be used for a military

purpose and claimed their inclusion had been a mistake. Lord Hesket, speaking to the BBC *Today* programme, said that anyone who believed they were wrongly on the list should "make representations" to the authorities concerned.

PMK Electronics, a consultancy set up by Liverpool Polytechnic and two of its lecturers, said its only link with Iraq had been a deal for £3.6 million to supply educational equipment to a college in Baghdad.

Company list, page 2  
Leading article, page 13

## Three acquitted in IRA murder trial

FROM MARK FULLER IN ROERMOND, THE NETHERLANDS

THREE suspected members of the IRA were acquitted by a Dutch judge yesterday of the murder last year of two Australian tourists in Roermond. A fourth defendant, Gerard Harle, aged 27, from Lurgan, was found guilty and jailed for 18 years.

Donna Maguire, aged 25, Paul Hughes, aged 27, both from Newry, Co Down, and Sean Hick, aged 30, from Dublin were re-arrested and will be kept in custody pending extradition to Germany, where they are wanted in connection with a series of attacks on British servicemen and British army installations.

The three acquittals stunned the packed courtroom. Emile Bakermans, presiding over a panel of three judges, said the charge of murder and/or complicity to murder against the three was "insufficiently proven" and "not legally convincing."

After acquitting Mr Hughes, the presiding judge added: "And good luck to you."

The jailing of Harle, believed to be one of the longest sentences from a Dutch court in years, was based on a sighting by a Dutch housewife of him in a Mazda car used in the attack only seconds after the murder. Dutch courts place much importance on eye-witnesses and Harle was the only defendant identified near the scene of the crime.

The presiding judge said the sentence was necessary because of "the gravity of the facts, the crude way two unsuspecting tourists had been killed and the shock to the legal order and local community."

Harle's lawyer, Marie Hegemann, plans to appeal against the conviction. She said: "Public opinion requires one to be condemned."

The acquittal of Miss Maguire is her second on terror charges within 13 months.

Unanswered question, page 3

which British travellers became unbearably proud, was only introduced in the mid-1920s, in conformity with a League of Nations project for a standard international form.

Since 1987 those not willing to pay for a 90-page book in that pattern have been issued instead with the European Community's common format 32 page document, covered in burgundy-coloured plastic. However, it still carries the time-honoured formula of words in which "Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State... Requests and receives... all those whom it may concern... to allow the bearer to pass freely without let or hindrance..."

For some unfortunate passport holders resident overseas, of course, the freedom from let or hindrance comes to an abrupt end if they choose to approach our own island shores... but that is another matter.

Leading article, page 13

## The high cost of runaway prices

Mary Dejevsky in Sverdlovsk monitors the effects of swinging price rises on the people of a Soviet city

In the Sverdlovsk city Council dining room at lunchtime all the talk was of the menu. The novelty was not the food, but the prices. "So they're ripping us off three kopecks (3p) for a slice of bread. Yesterday it was one," said the bearded chairman of the foreign relations committee with a laugh.

As the councillors finished their carrot salad and tucked contentedly into the borscht, the managers appeared at the head of the table with an apology. "The official increase in state ration prices is 59 per cent," she said. "I am almost embarrassed to add up the bill. I've just rung up two roubles and 96 kopecks. Can you imagine that?"

Of course the councillors could imagine it, but they seemed more interested than worried. They were relieved only that there had been no unrest in the city when across-the-board price rises came into effect yesterday. They had, in any event, little need to worry on their own account. The combination of their pay as councillors and their pay in their normal work is more than enough to cope with the price increases, even though they have received only the minimum state compensation of 60 roubles a month. "We'll all have to lose weight," said one returning to his borscht.

Not all the inhabitants of Sverdlovsk, or indeed anywhere else in the Soviet Union, are so fortunate. One in the frosty city streets, now engulfed in the mud of the spring thaw, the mood was less euphoric. Many people had been out since early morning almost emptying between the shops in their diffidence. Many were not carrying their usual string bags, since they were only window shopping, out to see what might be available and how much it would cost.

Shrewdly, the authorities had ensured an abundant supply of two crucial palatibles: the bakeries were piled high with bread of several varieties, and cigarettes were also plentiful. Continued on page 20, col 2

## Albanian protesters set fire to party HQ

By JOHN HOLLAND IN TIRANA

THE communist party headquarters in the Albanian city of Shkoder was in flames last night, and at least four people were shot dead in growing violence after Sunday's election.

Fearing protesters were shown on television, smashing furniture in the charred interior of the building. Demonstrators jabbed victory signs at the cameras as people tossed confetti on to the streets, where at least one armoured car and two army trucks stood ablaze.

Residents of the town surrounded Arben Brozi, the local opposition Democratic party leader, who was said to have been shot in the back as he tried to calm protests yesterday morning.

The violence coincided with claims of irregularities in the election, as the ruling Party of Labour claimed a landslide victory. Official results showed the communists winning 162 seats in the 250-seat parliament, with the Democratic party taking 65.

Headquarters seized, page 10

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## GOOD WRITING IN THE TIMES

### CENSORSHIP

David Robinson on changing frontiers of acceptability as CA prepares sixty hours of material for its Banned series Page 16

### MUSEUMS

Nigel Nibbelke says that with hi-tech display barely in place, there is already nostalgia for the glass case era Page 12

### HUMOUR

Craig Brown is bigger than ever! But running low on exclamation marks and italics after a video retailers' dinner and dance Page 12

### INSIDE

## Major ridiculed

Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, tried to puncture the prime minister's image by cast doubt on his intellectual abilities. Page 20

## Abuse evidence

Detailed evidence behind the allegations of ritual sex abuse that led to nine Orkney children being seized from their homes will be assessed by a sheriff today. Page 7

## Murder legacy

The murder of Detlev Rohwedder, while fitting the pattern of Red Army Faction attacks on industrialists, has wider implications than previous killings. Page 10

## Market surges

The London stock market opened with a post-Easter rally that brought the FT-SE 100 index to within 12 points of its record. Page 25

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مذاهب اسلام



# Colleges hope it is third time lucky

By JOHN O'LEARY  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITIES

1. The first step is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.



# Prosecutor to decide on woman whose statement 'the size of a large novel' detailed activities of accused

## Dutch student who acted as go-between may yet be charged

FROM MARK FULLER IN ROERMOND, THE NETHERLANDS



Defence counsel: Marie Hegemann, Harte's lawyer, says she plans to appeal against the conviction. "Public opinion requires one to be condemned," she said. The choice of Harte, the only one of the accused not to be facing extradition, had been "political".

Colleges hope is this time luck

By JOHN O'LEARY  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITIES have decided yesterday of a new system, the first in months. Provisional decisions of places from the next three years have been abandoned.

The Universities Council, which has been through a system of bidding for places, has decided to abandon the only provisional decision of a Dutch student who was guaranteed a place at a university in the Netherlands.

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social geography at the Vrije universiteit in Amsterdam, is described by friends as a "fiery Catholic" and an excellent scholar. A fellow student said that news of her association with suspected IRA members was something unbelievable.

According to Dutch reports, however, her father, a finance ministry official, and her mother, a pediatricist, told police that they had become worried about her daughter's Irish friends and her growing sympathies for armed struggle in Northern Ireland.

Friends told a newspaper that Miss Heijman had had an Irish boyfriend before meeting Mr Hick. She had attended parties in The Hague at which the IRA was talked about.

The first Irish boy friend was Martin Conlon, a suspected IRA member still sought by police. Detectives believe he collected intelligence for the Roermond attack.

Miss Heijman said in her statement that he had also tried to induce her to lure a British soldier from a Roermond bar to an alley where the IRA would kill him, or to place a bomb in the bar.

A police source said Miss Heijman might have prevented the killings. If she had reported Mr Conlon's proposition to her in Roermond a week before the murders, Mick Spanos and Stephan Melrose would be alive.

Instead, Miss Heijman, as she said in her statement, just slapped her boyfriend's face.

Trial's outcome, page 1



Hughes: one of three accused yesterday



Maguire: introduced in bar as "Mary"



Hick: Ingrid Heijman said she was his lover

## Germany's patient wait for extradition

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

The alleged offences in Germany have wanted to extradite all to have taken place in the Irish Republic at Roermond ever since they were captured.

Forensic evidence links the weapons picked up in the forests with those used in a series of attacks near British bases in Germany in 1989. A six-month-old baby, her father and the wife of an army sergeant were gunned down at close

range when travelling in British-registered cars. The baby and her father, and RAF corporal, were attacked near Wildenrath and the woman outside a married quarters at Unna.

Police also want to question the four about a bombing at a barracks at Osnabruck, when a watchman disturbed four people, including a woman, as they were planting explosives. German police have led all the investigations because the crimes were carried out on sovereign

German territory. British intelligence has helped to identify likely suspects but anyone convicted of the crimes will be tried in German courts.

Two other suspected IRA members, Terence McGeogh and Gerard Hanratty, are being tried for murder and firearms offences at Dusseldorf. The three arrested after their discharge by the court in Roermond yesterday are being held in The Netherlands pending their appeal against extradition to Germany.

## Soldier accused of forest murder

WOMAN SOLDIER

used yesterday of murdering an army captain's wife as they walked their dogs in a forest in the north of England last week.

Susan Christie, aged 22, a former member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, sat with her head bowed during the five-minute remand hearing at the County Down court.

She was charged with murdering Penelope McAllister, aged 24, at Runkereagh Forest, outside Rathfriland, Co Down, on March 27.

Mrs Christie, who will be tried today near her home at Ballynure, West Sussex, died from stab wounds to her chest. She had been married for six years to Captain Dunne McAllister, of the Royal Scots Regiment, stationed at Aldershot, Co Antrim.

Miss Christie, from Rathfriland, Co Down, said "yes" to a question during the hearing, a quiet "yes" when a court clerk asked her if she understood the charge.

An RUC detective inspector said that Miss Christie had made verbal statements to other police and was satisfied he could connect her with the charge.

She was remanded in custody to appear at Lisburn Magistrates' court next Monday.

## Paragliding from top of the world

By RONALD FAUX

A FORMER SAS soldier is about to make his fourth attempt on Mount Everest and, having reached the summit, plans to descend by paraglider. Harry Taylor, aged 32, is leading the international High Adventure expedition to the Chinese side of the mountain as one of a series of venturesome exploits.

With Russell Brice, aged 39, of New Zealand, he plans to climb the mountain via the northeast ridge, the most difficult route to the summit. In 1988 Taylor and Brice became the first climbers to traverse the Pinnacles section of the ridge.

While they climb, an international team of mountaineers will strike a support camp at the junction of the northeast and north ridges of the mountain. Taylor and Brice will continue to the summit and then, winds permitting, will harness themselves to paragliders and take off down the north face of the mountain, flying 9,000ft to the foot.

John English, the expedition doctor, said yesterday that an advance party was already in Tibet. Everything would depend on a calm spell of weather reaching the 29,028ft summit in the pre-monsoon period.

"They have got what it takes, ... and they have an impressive track record which has led to this attempt," he said.

Taylor, Brice and a third climber made a record-breaking descent by paraglider from the summit of the world's sixth highest mountain, Mt. Cho Oyu (24,278ft) on the border of China and Nepal. Taylor has also climbed and parachuted from the top of Mount McKinley in Alaska, the highest summit in the United States.

Dr English said paragliders were widely used in the Alps, but the thin air of the Himalayas did mean their performance was not so effective. "The descent rate increases by 15 per cent at high altitude, which means you come down a lot faster. The climbing team will probably take two days at least to return from the summit. Coming down by paraglider should take less than 40 minutes," he said.

## More cash urged for remand schemes

By QUENTIN COWDREY HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE practice of remanding juveniles to jail will continue for many years unless the government provides adequate funding for alternative remand schemes, according to a report published today by the Association of Directors of Social Services.

The association applauds the main thrust of the Home Office's plan to phase out custodial remands for juveniles, but accuses ministers of failing to address its financial implications. In its formal response to the plan, which was unveiled in February, the association says that the government's proposal would leave over 400 youngsters at serious risk of being remanded to prison.

Ministers have promised to fund 35 extra places in council-run juvenile secure units, but social services' heads say those would at best cater only for about 900 of the 1,300 or so juveniles remanded to jail each year.

The association accepts that there are other options, such as bail support schemes and remand foster care, but says ministers have given no sign that they are prepared to expand funding in these areas.

"The consultation paper is very seriously at fault in failing to acknowledge that alternative provision for some 1,300 alleged young offenders annually necessitates identification and provision of the necessary level of funding," the association says.

## Five face removal from Britain

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

SINCE the arrests of Gerard Harte, Donna Maguire, Paul Hughes and Sean Hick in June last year, IRA activity on the Continent appears to have ceased. Harte, the only one of the four defendants to be convicted in The Netherlands yesterday, has a long history of involvement with republican paramilitary groups.

A married man aged 27, from Lurgan, Co Armagh, he is one of the few IRA suspects extradited from the Irish Republic to Northern Ireland in recent years.

The chance arrest of Harte marked the end of one of the Provisionals' most concerted campaigns outside Ireland, which had claimed the lives of 11 people over two years. Most of the attacks were on British military installations and personnel in Germany, The Netherlands and Belgium.

The campaign began in March 1987 with a car bombing outside the headquarters of the British Army of the Rhine, at Rheindahlen, which injured 31 people, and ended with the killing of two Australian lawyers in Roermond last May.

Security sources were being quoted in Belfast yesterday as saying that the IRA may be trying to re-establish "active service units" on the Continent. Experts on terrorism consider another campaign inevitable, partly due to the international publicity that continental attacks generate.

Harte was first arrested as a teenager in 1979 and sent to a juvenile detention centre in Belfast for petrol bombings and an arson attack on Orange Order premises. However, he went on the run in the Republic for two years before his arrest there for armed robbery, for which he served four years in the top-security Portlaoise prison from 1982-86, and was recognised as an IRA prisoner.

After being arrested in Dublin in August 1988, he was handed over to the authorities in Northern Ireland, and jailed for 12 months for the petrol bombings and arson.

Harte was released in early 1989, after which his movements are unclear. He did not return to either Dundalk or Lurgan, and Irish police said that he had gone underground.

His conviction yesterday underlines the extent of the intelligence failure by British, Irish and continental police forces that enabled him, a well-known IRA activist, to move on the Continent.

Of Harte's three co-defendants, Donna Maguire, Sean Hick and Paul Hughes only Hughes, an electrician aged 27, from Newry, Co Down, has no previous record.

Sean Hick, aged 30, from Glenageary, Co Dublin, became active in Sinn Féin, the IRA's political wing, while at University College, Dublin. He has served a prison term for kidnapping.

Donna Maguire, aged 24, from Newry, Co Down, was acquitted in Dublin after being accused of having, in July 1989, devices of a type used in IRA car bombs.

## Harte's arrest ended IRA campaign

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Five people believed to be of Irish origin are expected to made the subject of expulsion orders and removed from Britain shortly, after their arrest by anti-terrorist police, it emerged yesterday (Quentin Cowdrey writes). The five were arrested at the weekend in south-west Wales in a joint operation between Dyfed-Powys police and Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch.

Last night, the five, thought to include several women, were being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act at the fortified Paddington Green police station in west London. Scotland Yard refused to discuss details of the case, but it is understood that police in Britain are not interested in charging those held.

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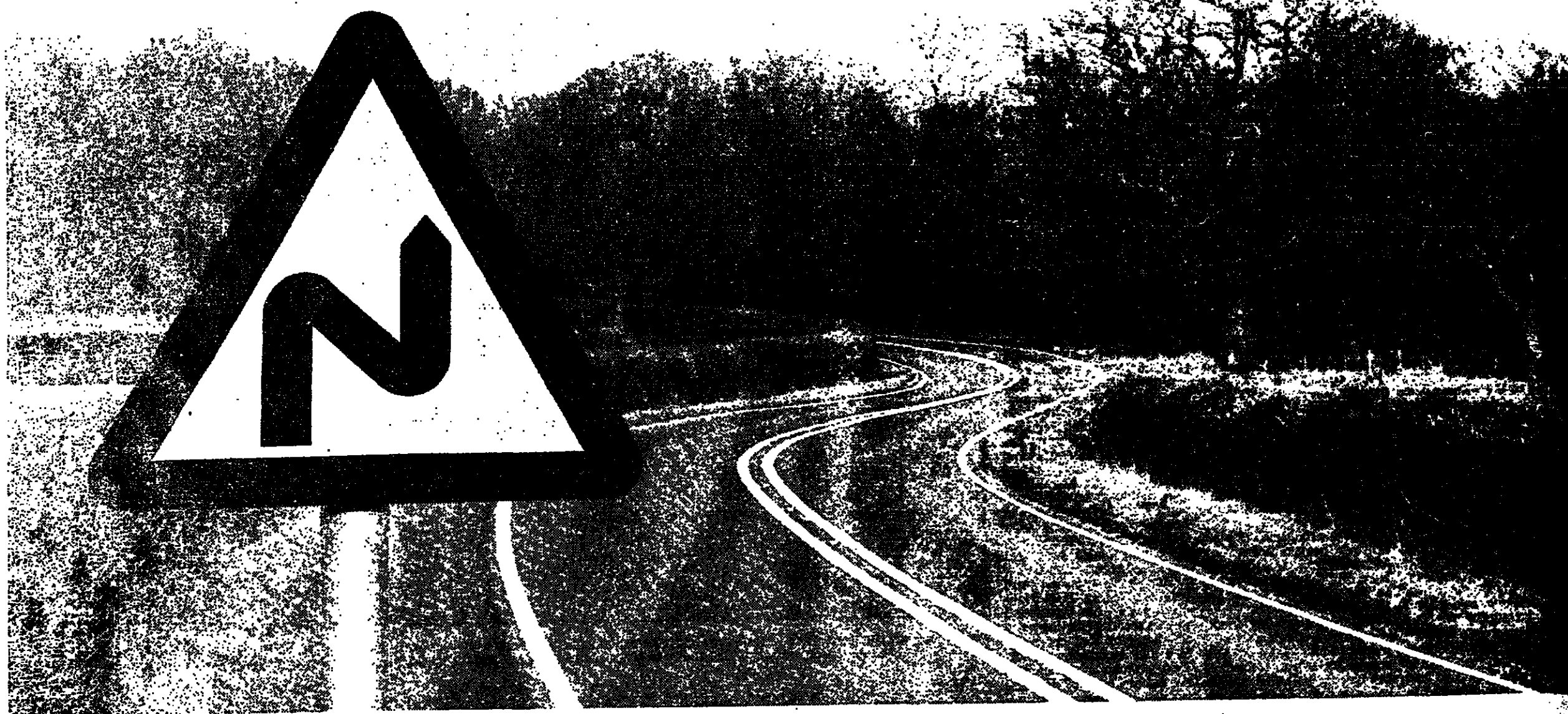
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Of course, it is one thing to explain what **ICD** stands for on paper. But it is quite another to discover how it actually stands up on the road.

As we said at the beginning, you really need to test drive the 405. Take the quick route to your local Peugeot dealer. And then take the scenic route.



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LAW:  
STUDENT VIEW

Students show  
conscience



# McAvoy tells extremists teachers will not strike

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

EXTREME left-wing teachers were accused by their union leader last night of political posturing and ignoring the views of the ordinary classroom teacher.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said that strike action or a boycott of legally required national curriculum tests for seven-year-olds could not take place without the support of members in spite of decisions taken by the union's annual conference in Scarborough this week.

Left-wing delegates sat in angry silence when he said: "There is a hard core who return with the same plat-

will not change that situation. Teachers do not and will not strike unless there is no alternative. The union does not and will not ask teachers to forgo a day of their pupils' education without knowing that those teachers believe it is the only option left. This union and our members will not throw away the public and parental support we have cultivated so carefully."

He added that primary school teachers would be advised not to boycott testing until a ballot had been held. Hasty action over the tests would put members at risk of losing pay or even dismissal. A meeting of the union executive to provide more detailed advice will be held next week. In a clear attack on the extremists who had led the call for the boycott of testing, he said: "The arguments are put most vociferously by many who will not be in the firing line. We all must accept that our members who are under threat have the overwhelming right to decide."

Mr McAvoy accused the government of refusing to provide sufficient resources for Britain's schools and that this would no longer be acceptable to the public. He also said that the public no longer wanted schools left under-equipped, teachers underpaid and children taught in "appalling" buildings. The conference rejected left-wing demands for non-cooperation with compulsory appraisal of teachers due to begin later this year. The union will insist that appraisal is not linked with pay or disciplinary action.

Mr McAvoy said that there was little support for industrial action among the 176,000 union members. This year 12 ballots had been held for strikes in areas facing education cuts. Eight failed to get a majority to vote.

He told the conference: "Virtually anywhere you look the majority of our members are not anxious for strike action. Passing motions at this conference calling for strikes

Walking tall, page 12



McAvoy: teachers will not discard public support



Signature time: Maria Brissonskaya, the Russian ballerina, signing autographs yesterday for girls from the London Centre Association Dance School during a break in rehearsals at Wembley conference centre, which is to host Rudolf Nureyev's final performance in London

## Union survey shows only 44% of time spent in class

By JOHN O'LEARY  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
CORRESPONDENT

TEACHERS are spending more time on preparation and administrative tasks than in the classroom, the conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) was told yesterday.

The union is conducting a continuing survey of teachers' workloads in support of a demand for a 35-hour week. The latest returns show an increase on the 51-hour average week claimed last year.

Brian Clegg, for the executive, said that the surveys showed that teachers spent only 44 per cent per cent of their working week in the classroom. "The rest they spend pen-pushing and attending meetings, many of which are useless," he said. "That is doing more damage than any amount of industrial action taken by teacher unions in recent years."

Primary schools have seen the greatest rise in non-teaching tasks because of the national curriculum. Last year's survey showed that primary teachers worked an average of 19 extra hours.

Delegates to the conference, in Bournemouth, agreed yesterday to extend their policy of working only a "reasonable"

week to oppose the introduction of appraisal unless extra resources are provided. The same strategy, agreed with the other five teaching unions in January, is being adopted to ensure that teachers are given extra time to do assessments.

The conference supported an executive resolution on appraisal, accepting the pro-

cess only as part of an agreed pay and conditions package. Local initiatives will be opposed, as will any schemes directly linking appraisal to individuals' pay.

Appraisal of all teachers is due to be introduced over the next four years. Nigel de Gruchy, the union's general secretary, said: "We are not at

all opposed to appraisal, but we want it introduced in the right context."

The NASUWT will press school governors to raise its members' pay if extra money is found for head teachers and their deputies, in spite of the union's opposition to locally determined pay. Mr de Gruchy said yesterday.

## Computer cuts cost of phone enquiries

By NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

WHILE most of the country awoke yesterday to directory enquiries costing 43p a call, some companies were turning to a personal, electronic, operator that had collected thousands of numbers overnight for about 8p each.

The "electronic operator", a computer programme called PhoneLink, uses the skills and knowledge of a human directory enquiries operator to scan a database set up by British Telecom in Sheffield where about 17 million office and home numbers are kept. The system, which has been developed by a company in Birkhead called PhoneLink Data, uses a technique known as "fuzzy logic" to reduce errors and to speed searches.

The system, which has been under development for three years, has been on trial with organisations including the Automobile Association, British Gas and the North West Electricity Board.

Martin Pierce, of the AA's information technology support unit in Cheadle, Greater Manchester, said that it was using PhoneLink to collect up to 1,000 numbers a night for insurance business. Users of the system need a modem and a computer.

PhoneLink systems cost between £1,000 and £5,000 a year, depending on their level of sophistication, and the company says that they become economically viable for customers who make about 50 calls a day to directory enquiries.

Mercury price cuts, page 21

**UK LAW: THE STUDENT VIEW**

**Q If jobs were equally available in all areas and wages similar in all legal jobs, which type of work would you prefer?**

	%
Company/commercial	36
Property	5
Family/probate/trusts	14
Litigation-civil	15
Litigation-criminal	32
Local authority or Government legal services	11

**Q How strongly do you agree or disagree about the following?**

	Agree %	Disagree %	Don't know %
There should be a common final exam for both solicitors and barristers	51	36	13
There should be completely common training for both solicitors and barristers	44	43	13
It should be compulsory for all lawyers to do some "pro bono" (free) work in law centres or for the underprivileged	64	25	11
It should be compulsory for those firms of solicitors which do little or no legal aid work to pay a levy/contributions to the Legal Aid Fund	63	23	14
Solicitors and barristers should have similar advocacy rights in all courts	59	33	8
Legal education is too theoretical and insufficiently practical at present	61	22	17

**Q What do you feel about salary levels?**

	Paid too much %	Paid about right %	Paid too little %	Don't know %
Solicitors generally (excluding legal aid practitioners)	14	69	8	9
Barristers generally (excluding legal aid practitioners)	28	46	11	15
Legal aid practitioners	2	9	73	16

## Law students show a social conscience

NEARLY two out of three students seeking a law career believe that all lawyers should compulsorily give some free legal advice, according to a Times/Mori survey (Frances Gibb writes). The survey also found that nearly two in three would-be lawyers feel that law firms that do little or no legal aid work should have to contribute to the legal aid fund.

The findings are based on the views of more than 900 students who attended the Law Fair in London, organised by London University's careers advisory service. The survey showed that if law were equally available in all areas of work, and wages were the same, then 32 per cent of students would opt for criminal litigation, with the most popular company or commercial

law (36 per cent). The survey was devised with Avrom Sherr, director of training at the City law firm, Macfarlane's, Bridge Barker a partner on the firm's committee handling recruitment and training said: "The students obviously have a developed social conscience. It's clearly important for firms to encourage trainees to go off and do voluntary work."

While just under 70 per cent of students thought solicitors (other than legal aid practitioners) were fairly paid, and 46 per cent thought barristers were fairly paid, 73 per cent thought legal aid practitioners were paid too little.

Thirty-three per cent of students wanted to go to a medium-sized London law firm, 16 per cent to a big provincial practice, and 21 per cent to a big City firm.

## Solicitors ease court proposals

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL AFFAIRS  
CORRESPONDENT

SOLICITORS in England and Wales should be granted immediate rights to conduct simple cases in the crown court with further rights obtainable on the basis of training and experience, the Law Society proposed yesterday.

The proposals, which amount to a retreat from the earlier position demanding full rights for all solicitors, are aimed at breaking the Bar's monopoly of rights of audience in the higher courts.

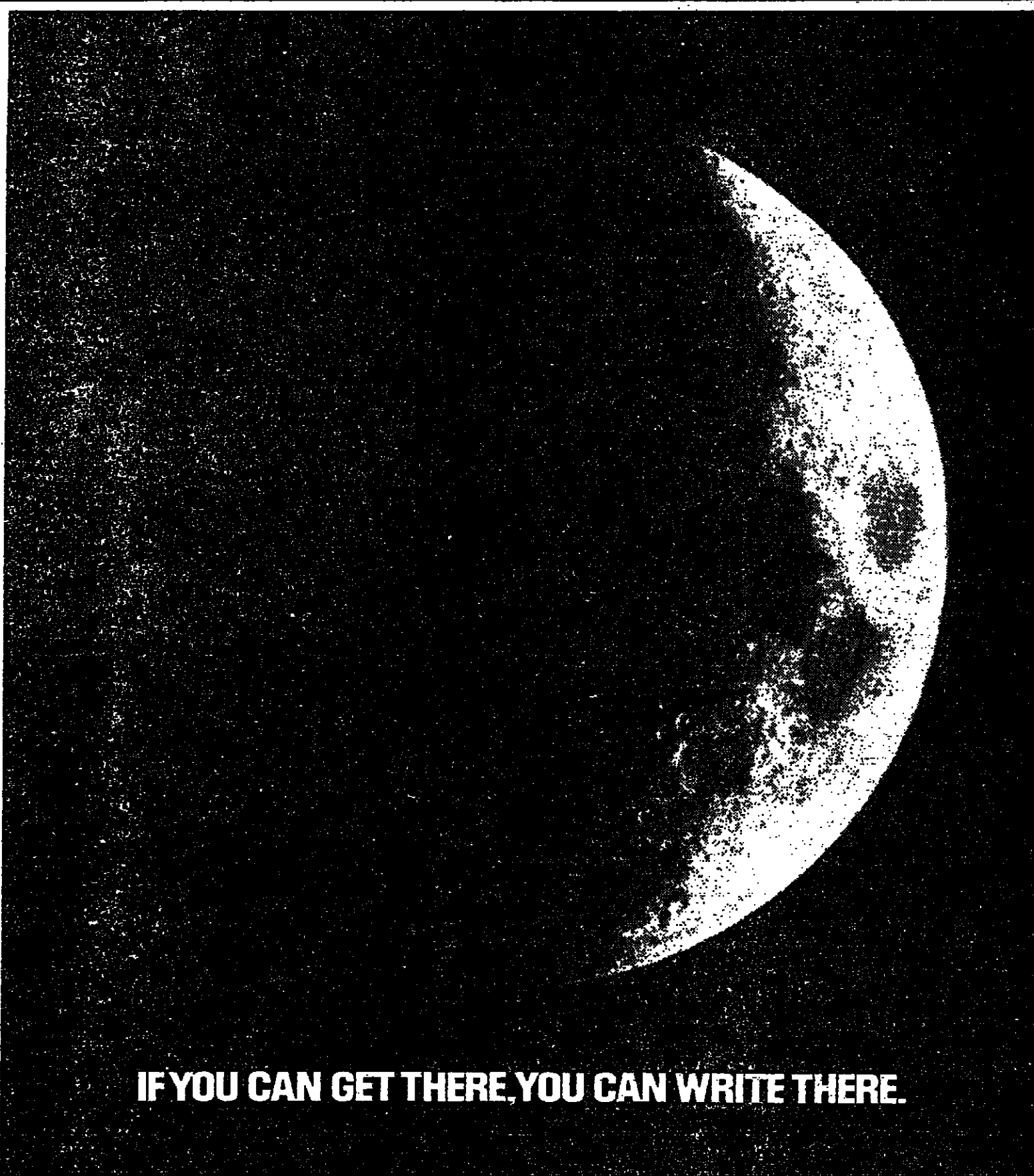
Although the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 paves the way for breaking that monopoly, the job of deciding whether solicitors, or others, are to be allowed wider advocacy rights falls to an advisory committee under Lord Griffiths, the law lord. Yesterday's proposals form the basis of the society's application to the committee.

Philip Ely, the society's vice president, said the aim of the society's application was to improve the standards of advocacy in the courts and to give the public a wider choice of advocate.

The proposals cover all solicitors. Under the first part, all would become entitled to conduct non-jury cases in the crown court, which would comprise guilty pleas, commitments for sentence and appeals from magistrates' courts.

Solicitors would also be able to conduct certain preliminary matters in the High Court, chiefly those heard in open court in the Chancery division. In the other High Court divisions, solicitors already handle those matters because they are normally heard in chambers, where solicitors can appear.

In the second part of the application, solicitors who are experienced advocates will be able to apply for full rights of audience in all courts after further testing and training. The requirements would be: at least three years' experience in practice, the equivalent of 20 days' advocacy experience in contested court proceedings in the past two years, passing a test in evidence and procedure, and successfully completing a five-day advanced advocacy course.



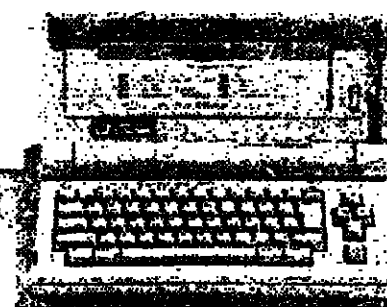
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## Consultant says low standards cause road failures and delays

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE cost of delays caused by regular resurfacing of Britain's main roads could be cut by altering the specifications for materials used and transferring responsibility for construction and maintenance from the transport department to local authorities, according to a roads expert.

Clive Buckmaster, a road surfacing consultant who has given evidence to the governmental all-party transport select committee, says that the standards laid down for bituminous surfacing are no better than they were in immediate post-war years and are inferior to those used in pre-war years. The standards mean that contractors who tender for quality materials have little chance of getting the job and roads break up prematurely.

Transport ministers are to be questioned about his allegations when the Commons resumes.

Mr Buckmaster said that the transport department built too close to minimum standards, which was why there had been failures on some motorways, such as the M27, the M25 and the M40, before

they were opened. The transport department was incapable of controlling the manufacture and laying of bituminous surfacing and he feared that there had been cuts in technical personnel who might have ensured higher standards.

The select committee should examine the benefits of handing responsibility for road building to local authorities and their materials engineers. "The department is unfit to take responsibility for the construction and maintenance of the busiest roads in the country and other arrangements should be made if a complete breakdown of the road network is to be avoided."

With the right specification, he said, blacktop surfacing should be able to stand up to heavy traffic for more than 20 years with only minor maintenance. Although the transport department had spoken of building roads capable of lasting 40 years, with large-scale maintenance after 20 years, the life of heavy duty areas was less than ten years.

Mr Buckmaster said: "A

simple mandatory formula including the cheapest component materials for all types of roads from elevated motorways to minor trunk roads will never meet the demands of present-day surfacing." He told the committee that the ministry condoned a "quantity not quality" approach.

Together with the transfer of responsibility to local authorities, Mr Buckmaster is urging strict specifications for road component materials for different classes of road with a performance test for the finished product.

The public accounts committee said in a report last year that Whitehall had failed to tackle poor maintenance of roads and the traffic delays caused by continual repairs. It urged the transport department to do more to seek a balance between spending more on construction and the costs of delays caused by premature maintenance. A National Audit Office investigation covering 210 projects showed that construction defects and premature repairs had cost £262 million.

## Winds of change for the countryside's byways

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
ENVIRONMENT  
CORRESPONDENT

SIR John Johnson, the new chairman of the Countryside Commission, gave notice of his priorities yesterday by spending his first working day on a long-distance footpath.

The former British High Commissioner to Kenya spoke of the need to have the entire English rights of way network properly identified, signposted and maintained by the end of the decade, as he walked 12 miles of the South Bucks Way, from Wendover to his home at Amersham. "That would be a major achievement," he said. "It may sound simple, but it's a very big job."

He also emphasised his determination to press forward with the new national forest in the Midlands, the programme of 12 community forests on the outskirts of towns, and with the commission's ideas on the future of the national parks.

His first big task will be to absorb the conclusions of the recent review of the national parks by an independent panel under Professor Ron Edwards, which called for a new national parks act to create strong independent park authorities, more support for farmers, traffic-free zones and a new national



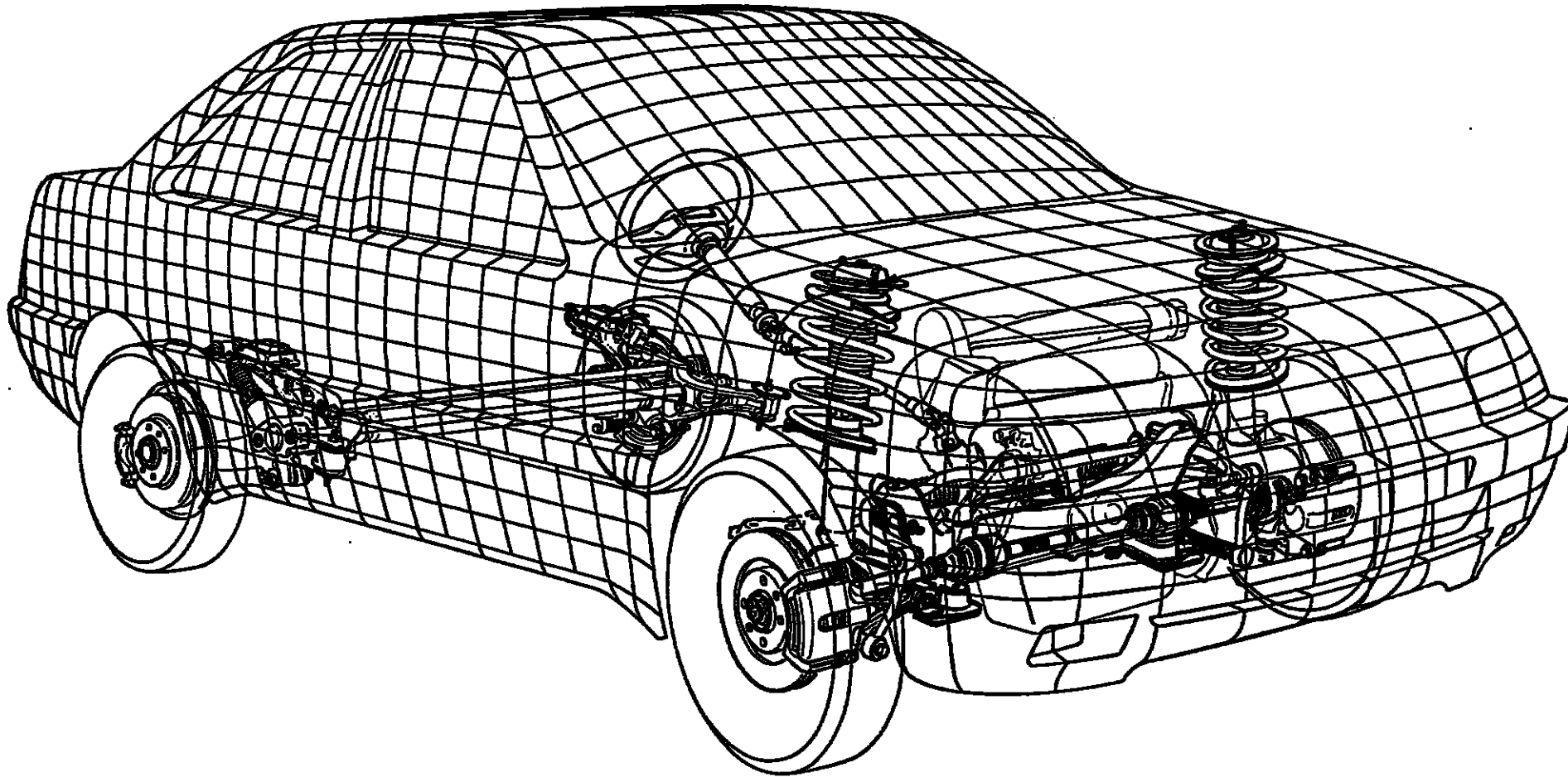
Path to change: Sir John Johnson, new chairman of the Countryside Commission, in the Chilterns yesterday

park in the New Forest. The review will form the basis of the commission's formal recommendations to the government, which Sir John will deliver within the next two months.

Sir John, aged 61, who is director of the Oxford university foreign service programme, was one of the foreign office's leading experts on Africa, and acquired distinguished green creden-

tials as Britain's permanent representative to the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi. He succeeds Sir Derek Barber. "I've been a countryside consumer all my life," he

said. "Not in the pejorative sense of someone who was something up, but as someone who has always made the most of the countryside and believes in its conservation."



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## Oxygen therapy could aid thousands

By THOMSON PRENTICE  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST 50,000 sufferers of chronic lung disorders could live longer if they received oxygen therapy, specialists said yesterday.

About one million people have bronchitis, emphysema and other severe breathing conditions, but only a few thousand receive the therapy, the British Lung Foundation said at the launch of the Breathe Easy Club, a national support network for people with long-term lung complaints.

Dr John Moore-Gillon, consultant in respiratory medicine at St Bartholomew's hospital, London, said sufferers often felt isolated, frightened and uncertain of where to seek advice. Oxygen therapy could improve the quality of life and life expectancy of between 50,000 and 60,000 of the patients, he said.

Trevor Clay, former general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, called for the therapy to be made more widely available within the health service.

South West Regional Health Authority has introduced a radical new booking system in an attempt to end surgical waiting lists, which stand at more than 55,000 in its area.

All non-emergency patients, including those for hip and knee replacements, will get a fixed date for surgery. More than 12,500 on the list have been waiting for more than a year but the authority expects this number to drop dramatically.

## Woman hit runner is found dead after fall

By ROBIN YOUNG

A WOMAN athlete who was hit during a hill runners' race through the Brecon cons was found dead yesterday after a search of 18 hours.

Carol Matthews, aged mother of two from Llan Major, South Glamorgan appeared on Monday leaving the third check on the 47-mile relay organised by the Welsh Water Mountaineering Club. Five mountain rangers, police and volunteers including her husband, ham, helped in the search, which was resumed at light yesterday.

When she was discovered by a helicopter, Mrs Matthews to hospital was carried off the mountain but found to be dead on arrival at the Prince of Wales hospital, Merthyr Tydfil. Police said: "The teams of the lady some distance from the route she had been running, which suggests she had fallen."

Mrs Matthews was seen minutes into her run, seven-mile stretch when she disappeared. She was 2,900ft Pen y Fan. Bob I, her club secretary, said Matthews was a very experienced runner.

Jonathan Gibbon, secretary of the Welsh Committee of Fell Running Association, said bad weather had made it difficult for runners to find route markers. He said an experienced fell runner would have thought conditions were manageable.

## Raiders hit rare nests

Eggs were stolen from more than 100 rare birds' nests last night by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said in a statement.

Targets included nine of the 63 red kite nests, nine of 63 of ospreys, three golden eagle nests, nine peregrine falcon nests, two goshawks, two hen harriers, three dotterels and red-throated divers. Many thefts are thought to have gone undetected. The society says there are 300 active egg collectors.

## Murder charge

June Scotland, aged 51, and Caroline Scotland, 22, of Stevenage, Hertfordshire, wife and daughter of Thomas Scotland, 50, whose body was found in a grave in their garden, were charged with his murder yesterday. They were remanded in custody until April 10.

## Doorstep kill

Alan Leppard, aged 43, after being shot by two men who called at his home in Monkton, Kent, yesterday.

## Teenager sues

Jason Daltrey, aged 15, found hanged in Tyne and Wear, Greater Manchester, finishing with his girlfriend.

## Two die in crash

A man and woman drowned when their car plunged into a ditch at Sherburn-in-Elmet, north Yorkshire.

## Detective fined

David King, 36, a detective inspector, of Preston, Weymouth, was fined £250 yesterday for driving at 120mph.

## Woman missing

Police yesterday failed to find Barbara Holmes, aged 44, of Sible Hedingham, Essex, who went missing on Monday.

## Postmen bite

Postmen are fringing mail with appeals for owners to control dogs in Cheltenham and Gloucester this week.

## Daughter kill

Wayne Parry, aged 34, Delapre, Northampton, killed his daughter Emma, 16, and then killed himself.

## Vicar convicted

The Rev Jonathan Blaylock, 34, convicted of using Biblical quotations outside parliament against the Gulf war, had told him to do so.

## Dickens theft

A £1,000 gold watch belonging to Charles Dickens is to be sold at auction. The watch had been stolen from a museum in Rochester, Kent.



# Sheriff starts assessing Orkney abuse allegations

By KERRY GILL

SHERIFF will today begin assessing the first detailed evidence behind the allegations of ritual sex abuse that led to nine Orkney children, aged between eight and 15, being seized from their homes in February and placed in care by social workers. The legal case is expected to last for more than a month.

The four families at the centre of the allegations, from the island of South Ronaldsay, will be given the chance through their lawyers to refute the allegations that have summoned the islands and led to claims that the social work department carried out a vendetta against the parents for their support of another family whose eight children were taken into care last year.

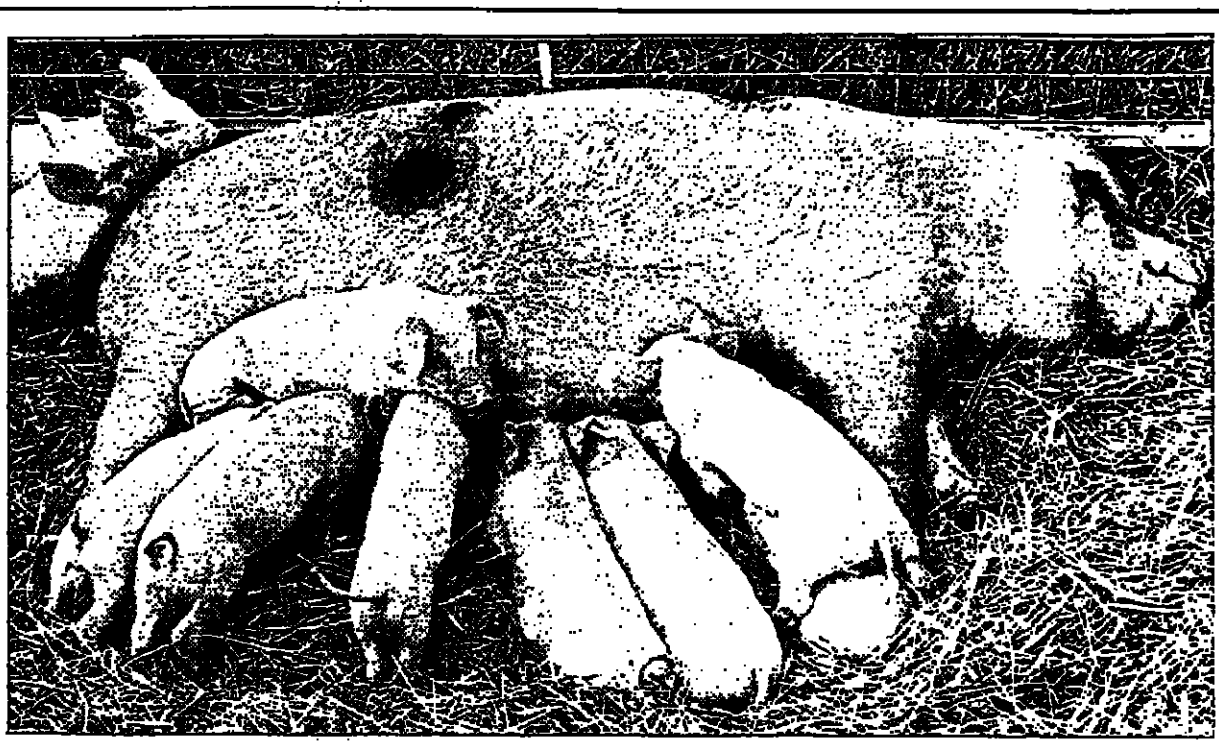
said, "Not in the case of someone who has something up, but in the case of someone who has the most of the community and believes in conservation."

## Londoner wins chess

JULIAN HODGSON, the chess grandmaster from central London, has won first prize in a Dublin international tournament which finished on Sunday (Our Chess Correspondent is likely to spend today writing legal submissions in Dublin before going to Inverness to hear the children's evidence in chambers, either on Friday or next week. Sheriff Kelbie will then decide the warrants keeping the children in care should stand.

By ROBIN YOUNG

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Seeking succour: Gloucester Old Spot piglets and their mother, members of one of seven rare breeds

## Old Spots bank on last-minute reprieve

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S biggest herd of Gloucester Old Spots, one of seven breeds of rare pigs, has been granted a week's reprieve from slaughter while their owner seeks to persuade his bank that the animals have a viable commercial future.

Charles Russell, who keeps a breeding stock of about 100 Old Spots in free-range conditions at Hope Bagot, near Ludlow, Shropshire, says he will have to slaughter some 90 breeding sows if the National Westminster bank refuses him a loan of £10,000, mainly to meet feeding costs and the wages of a stockman. The herd was due to be slaughtered today but Mr Russell hopes that a further week of negotiation will be successful.

The bank has already extended Mr Russell an overdraft of £30,000. The extra £10,000, he says, would keep him going over the next few months until young pigs are ready to sell. He has presented the bank with figures suggesting that his debts would be down to no more than £5,000 by the end of the year. He said that the bank was encouraging at first but had since changed its tune.

Lord Alexander, the bank's chairman, has written to Mr Russell expressing concern about the fate of the pigs and promising to investigate the matter. So far, however, no more funds have been forthcoming. "We have to take a view as to how much we can lend prudently to each venture on a commercial basis," the bank said yesterday. "Following full and sympathetic consideration of Mr Russell's position, we feel we have been generous to him."

The case has been taken up by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. Lawrence Alderson, its technical consultant, said: "We cannot provide financial help to individual farmers but we are in touch with the bank and are trying to persuade them that Gloucester Old Spots can be commercially viable as well as being genetically valuable."

Mr Russell, a former marketing executive in the motor industry, started his Old Spot herd three years ago. It now includes all 15 remaining female bloodlines and accounts for 20 per cent of the national breeding herd of the "orchard pig", so called because of its ability to live on a diet of fallen fruit.

Modern hybrid strains of pig kept in intensive factory-like units, transformed pig-keeping in the 1960s and 1970s, making the rearing of the hardy old breeds uneconomical. Now the pendulum is swinging back due to a growing demand for free-range meat and concern about pig welfare. Mr Russell says specialist butchers will pay 30 per cent more for his pigs because of their taste and texture.

## Plouviez's deputy beats hard left to Equity leadership

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

IAN McGarry, assistant general secretary of the actors' union, Equity, has been elected its general secretary, defeating a double challenge from the hard left. He will succeed Peter Plouviez, who retires as head of the 46,000-strong union in July.

Announcing the result, Mr Plouviez attacked the law that had made the election necessary. "The general secretary of Equity has become a political figure," he said. "Ian McGarry is elected for five years and will have to stand for re-election under the terms of the 1988 Employment Act."

"This means that whenever he makes statements and decisions on behalf of the Equity Council, which is elected by the members and instructs the general secretary, he will have to consider what the electoral effect of these actions will have on his ability to keep his job. The pressures are going to be immense and unnecessary."

Mr Plouviez said: "We are saying to the government that the law is wrong and must be changed."

In the election, 11,098 members voted, 8,398 of them for Mr McGarry. He beat David Hargreaves, an Equity council member, who got 2,505 votes, and Tony McEvoy, who got 195.

The campaigns have been as controversial, as in the first election for general secretary, in 1988. Both Mr McEvoy and Mr Hargreaves mentioned their political opposition to the Gulf war in their election addresses. This time, Mr McGarry was allowed to campaign, which Mr Plouviez could not, but made no political statements.

Mr McGarry said: "My election is confirmation that the membership does not want a general secretary who adopts political stances. I'm interested in what the members are interested in: what their next job is going to be, how much they will get paid and if and when they will get paid."

Mr McGarry, aged 50, an Equity official for 15 years, is already embarked on his greatest challenge on behalf of



Plouviez: elections imposing pressure

its members — negotiations with the makers of television commercials, who are anxious that new franchises and satellite television will send repeat fees for actors spiralling, and want flat-rate fees that the union fears will leave members much worse off.

□ The Arts Council is to enquire into local authority arts spending, which it sees as sinking critically below acceptable levels.

Anthony Everitt, the secretary general, said: "There is plenty of evidence that local authorities are finding themselves in the position where they are not willing to sustain their spending on the arts. The present crisis is not because of Arts Council funding. The problem is deficiencies in local authority funding."

The council is also worried that the rise in the VAT rate to 17.5 per cent will harm arts companies by reducing ticket sales and because some have already published ticket prices and will have to bear the rise themselves.

## Irish hens slaughtered in new outbreak of pest

ABOUT 24,000 hens were slaughtered at a farm near Antrim, Northern Ireland, yesterday after a fresh outbreak of fowl pest, the fifth in three weeks (Michael Hornsey writes).

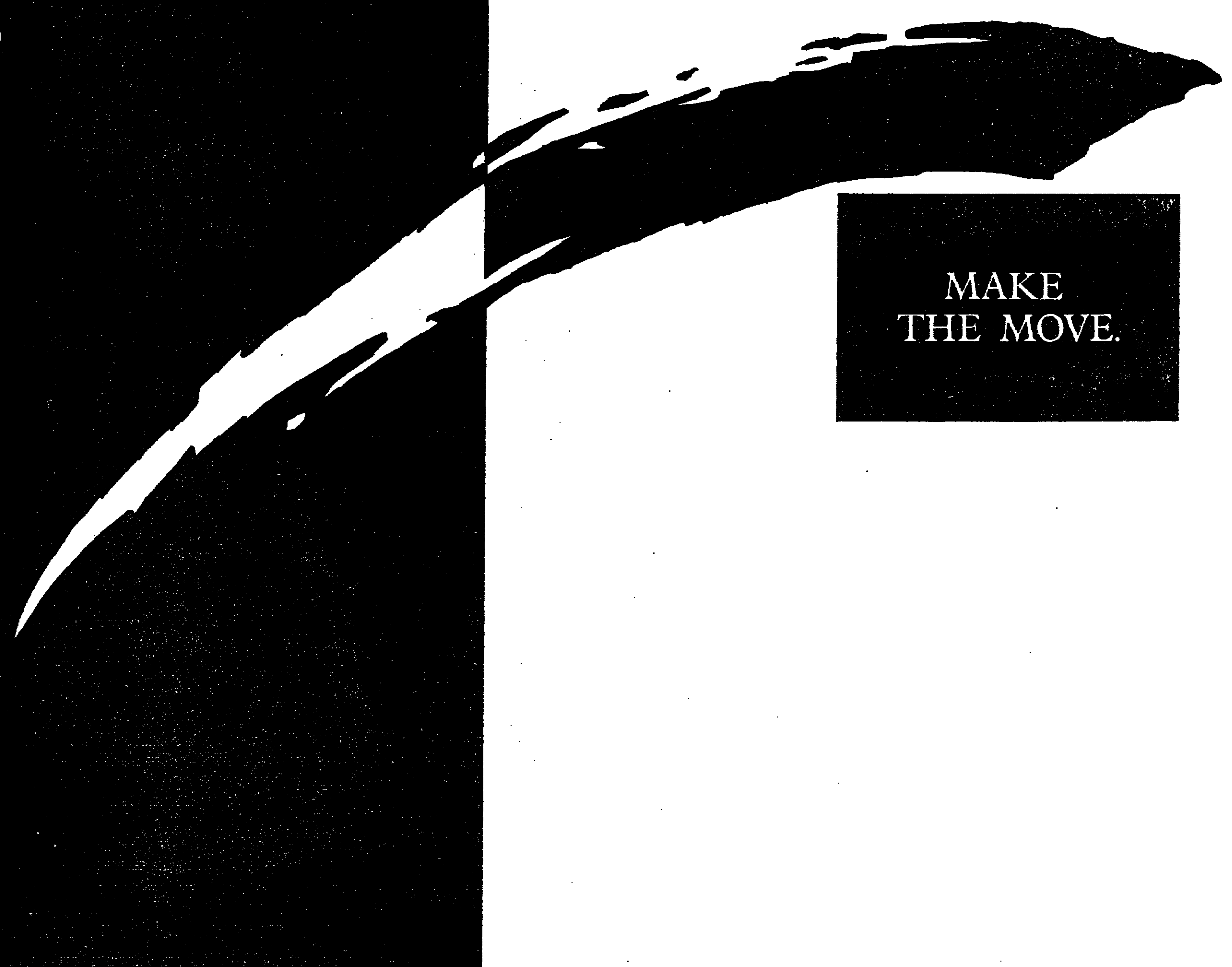
More than 80,000 egg-laying poultry have been slaughtered so far in the epidemic, which has exposed gaps in government controls on the safety of animal feed. Veterinary officers at the province's agriculture department blame the outbreak of the pest, also called Newcastle disease, on contamination by wild pigeons of feed ingredients during storage at Belfast docks.

"We believe the contamination was probably caused by the birds' faeces," the department said. "Last Friday we introduced regulations that will make it compulsory for all poultry feed to be heat-treated. Feed will also have to be stored in buildings and transported in vehicles that birds and vermin cannot enter."

Nearly all feed manufacturers heat-treat their products but most owners of layer flocks buy untreated raw materials and mix their own feed because it is cheaper. From August 31, only heat-treated poultry feed will be allowed in Northern Ireland.

Ulster and the republic are unusual in that they do not require vaccination of poultry against Newcastle disease. Howard Hellig, a vet specialising in poultry, said: "Broilers and layers in mainland Britain are vaccinated so even if they were to eat infected feed they should be protected. At the same time the fact that many owners of commercial laying flocks use feed that has not been heat-treated is a loophole in government regulations aimed at controlling the spread of salmonella and other infections."

The Northern Ireland agriculture department has imposed quarantine orders prohibiting the movement of any poultry or poultry products out of an area within six miles of affected farms. The last serious outbreak in Northern Ireland was in 1973.



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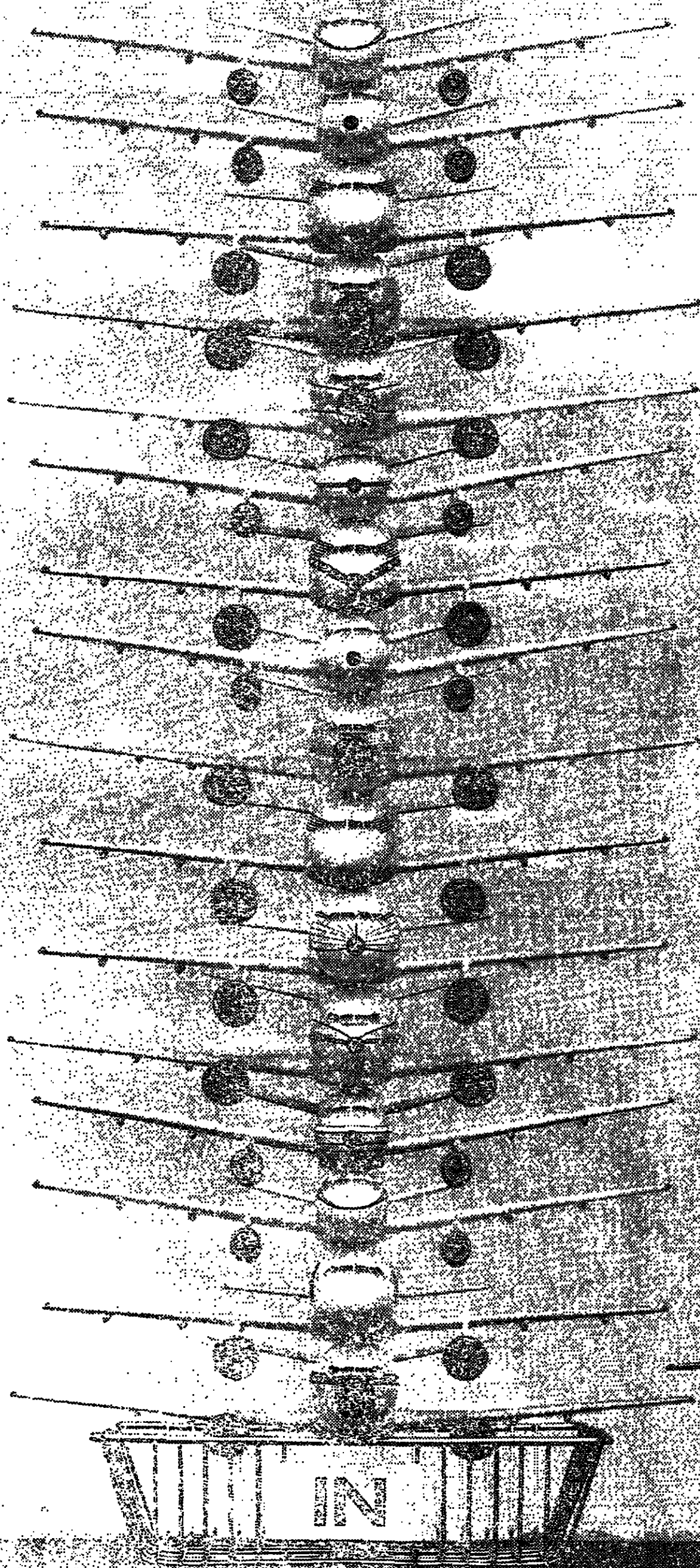
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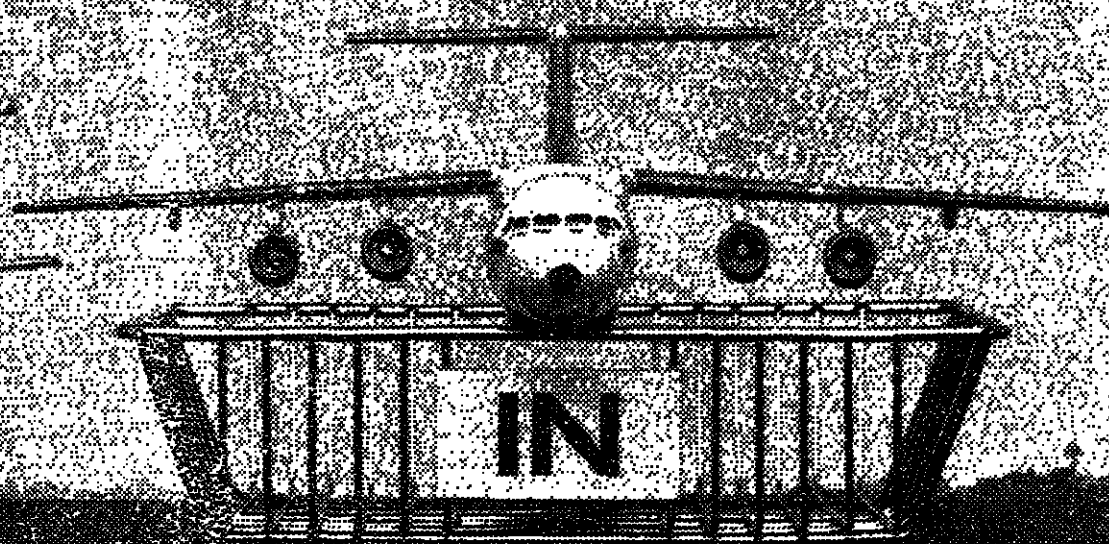
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# Hurd plays down chances of China deal on Hong Kong

By JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG AND MICHAEL KNIFE

DUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, yesterday warned Hong Kong not to expect any portentous breakthroughs in relations with China, which is virtually at a standstill, during his four-day visit to the territory beginning today. He dashed hopes on his arrival here that he had arranged a secret deal with China over Hong Kong's multimillion pound airport project.

Despite his downbeat approach, however, Mr Hurd promised to stand up for the colony's rights and to push for progress on the airport and other areas of contention. "I am not thinking in terms of concessions," he said in answer to critics who argue that Britain will compromise on the airport to avoid upsetting China.

Mr Hurd is the most senior British figure to make an official visit to China since the body military crackdown on democracy demonstrators June 4, 1989. His trip paves the way for the normalisation of British and European community ties with China, which is seen as a vital player in the United Nations Security Council in the search for Middle East solutions, for which the West wants Peking's support or at least neutrality.

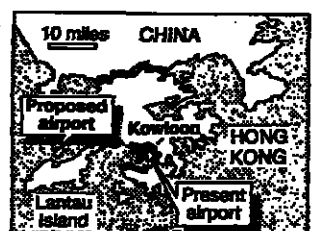
used the airport to prove that it has control over decision making in Hong Kong. Repeating his warning that there were unlikely to be any breakthroughs, the foreign secretary promised to make it clear to China that it was not in control.

Before leaving London, Mr Hurd spoke of the dangers ahead if relations between Britain and China did not improve by the time Hong Kong was handed back to

getting into arguments with China which would only damage the colony. Referring to articles by Bernard Levin in *The Times*, Mr Hurd said they treated the subject as if Hong Kong were an island somewhere in the Pacific with which Britain could do what it liked. It was no criticism of journalists to say they had no responsibility, but the government had to try to make sense of the 1984 agreement.

China would certainly get Hong Kong back, Britain had to try to show the Chinese that if they wanted the big prize of an economically successful Hong Kong they had to enable it to remain as it now was.

After arriving in Hong Kong, the foreign secretary said he would also talk to Peking about human rights, but he made no specific mention of Hong Kong's own freedoms or of China's abuses of human rights in Tibet.



Peking. If relations continued to stagnate there would be some sort of drama, Mr Hurd told the BBC. "The trains will hit the buffers: that is not satisfactory from anybody's point of view," he said.

He added that he was not sure of success in getting things into a better gear. It was not easy but what had to be done was to keep up Britain's responsibilities to Hong Kong, protecting the interests of the Hong Kong people without

● PEKING: China has confiscated the licences of two lawyers and punished another by withdrawing housing privileges in retaliation for their defence of prominent dissidents, friends of the defendants said yesterday. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 13  
Letters, page 13

## Moscow tightens ties with Peking

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

MOSCOW'S ties with Peking were becoming warmer and friendlier, Alexander Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister, said yesterday while on a sightseeing trip to the Great Wall, just before he left Peking after a day of talks with Qian Qichen, minister for foreign affairs, and Li Peng, the prime minister.

Mr Bessmertnykh pointed to China's recent \$700 million (£400 million) commodity loan to Moscow as a much appreciated indication of better relations. He said it was proof the Chinese "had remembered the assistance and help provided by Soviet people to Chinese people in the 1940s and 1950s". He dismissed as "too simplistic" speculation that the Soviet Union would compensate China with sales of military technology.

Mr Bessmertnykh said his talks had focused on bilateral relations, including the visit of Jiang Zemin, the Chinese Communist party general secretary, to Moscow next month and arms reductions on the border. He added that agreement had been reached on nearly all the disputed sectors of the 4,500-mile border.



Opening horizons: Mr Bessmertnykh visiting the Great Wall on his Chinese visit

## 10,000 new Aids cases a month

MORE than 10,000 people a month globally are developing Aids, according to figures issued by the World Health Organisation yesterday. It reported a 10 per cent increase in the tally of known sufferers of the disease in the first three months of this year (Thomson Prentice writes).

The total reached 345,533 at the end of March, but the organisation said it believed the true figure was closer to 1.3 million. Between nine and eleven million others are thought to be infected with HIV, the Aids virus.

WHO officials forecast that 25 million to 30 million people will be infected by the end of the century, including ten million children born to infected mothers. America has had 167,803 recorded cases, with 6,515 reported last month. Experts believe HIV is spreading fastest in Africa.

## Township deaths

Johannesburg — Four more people were shot dead in Alexandra township, bringing to 67 the number of killings since last Wednesday in South African townships. Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress deputy president, and Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Zulu leader, told followers to stop warring. (Reuters)

## Lefebvre buried

Ecône, Switzerland — Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, excommunicated from the Roman Catholic church in 1988 for defying the Pope, has been buried at a service attended by six thousand followers. Abbot Franz Schmidberger urged the Vatican to beatify the Archbishop. (Reuters)

## Stepping out

Cape Town — Fryona Campbell, a Briton aged 24, began her 8,700-mile walk through Africa from the edge of the Atlantic Ocean in Cape Town, on the fourth stage of an attempt to become the first woman to walk round the world. She has walked the length of Britain and across North America and Australia.

## Guardians of revolution lose something in translation

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

SEVERAL Chinese officials went a revolutionary shade of red in the face in the past week as they blundered through the linguistic and political minefield which is the annual session of parliament.

One revealing incident began when a journalist at a press conference asked in English: "Can you tell us about the crime of counter-revolution and its abolition?" The Chinese interpreter heard "abolition" not "abolition", and, in

Chinese, asked the panel of officials to speak about the "crime of counter-revolutionary abortion".

Not suspecting a linguistic hitch, but clearly worried by the political implications of such a sensitive issue, one official passed the question — and the buck — to another sitting next to him. In any other country, the startled official would have been able to reply "don't be ridiculous" with a certain amount of confidence that there had been a mistake along the line. But not in this country, where anything is possible. "I have heard nothing

about it," he announced, playing safe. Meanwhile, Zhou Nan, China's top Communist in Hong Kong, had to sit in embarrassment when Liu Yiu Chu, a lawyer and outspoken Hong Kong delegate to the parliament in Peking proposed a minute's silence in remembrance of the dead of the crackdown of June 4, 1989.

The bold move was made in a group meeting of Hong Kong delegates. No other Hong Kong delegate seconded her proposal, and seconds after Ms Liu began to observe the minute's silence another delegate

took pity on Mr Zhou and spoke, shattering the uneasy quiet.

The offices of the Communist party *People's Daily*, have been in uproar since the overseas edition of the paper published a patriotic poem with a hidden counter-revolutionary message. The message read "Prime minister Li Peng should step down in order to assuage the anger of the people". The message was well hidden and the reader had to scan the poem diagonally to spot it, but it was quite clearly intentional. A page editor has been fired, and all editors have been told that nothing

similar is to happen again. Now they must read poems diagonally, upside down, and in the mirror.

The offending poem was written by a Chinese student studying in America. The twist in the tale is that the student submitted it to He Dongchang, a vice-chairman of the state education commission, who visited America recently. Mr He told the paper to print it. Mr He, who rages against the evils of bourgeois liberalisation, is one of the pillars of Mr Li's hardline government. He simply failed to read the poem diagonally.

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# Shady commerce brings touch of Third World to Lithuania



Prunskiene: company links were used to topple her

THE sad story of the Interlita joint venture in Lithuania encapsulates all the elements of the contemporary Soviet economic house of horrors, calculated to freeze the flesh of any Western businessman. Arbitrary state power, high taxes, basic distrust of private initiatives, barter trade involving horses and personal computers, shady finance, the underworld, and dubious connections between private firms and bureaucracy.

There is also a new element, more familiar from the Third World: the use of companies as pawns in political feuds. Allegations of corrupt links with Interlita was a principal weapon in the campaign of radical nationalists within the Sajudis movement to topple the government of Kazimiera Prunskiene. Nationalist hostility to the

company had deeper roots. Interlita's parent company, Diskas, was founded in 1988 by members of the Komsomol, the young communist league, in Kaunas, Lithuania's second city. This has been a familiar pattern in East Europe: as members of the communist establishment saw their political futures were closing, their chances to do business on the strength of state connections were opening up.

The attack on Interlita is therefore part of the move by the "new men" of Sajudis to replace the former establishment, of which Mrs Prunskiene and several of her ministers were a part. Diskas's basic purpose was to import computers from the West. However, by last spring the company, with state encouragement, was also buying or bartering oil, fodder and horses on the

**Arbitrary power and dubious links to the black market spelt the fall of a Lithuanian firm and the Prunskiene government, Anatol Lieven reports from Kaunas**

Soviet black market to help get round Moscow's economic blockade of Lithuania.

The Interlita joint venture was founded by Diskas to escape the restrictions and taxes on purely Soviet companies, and to take advantage of the law on joint ventures allowing a two-year tax break. The Western partner is a Chinese businessman living in Hamburg. Interlita was also initially encouraged by Mrs Prunskiene's government.

Despite this, Interlita's general director, Arvydas Stasiulis, said "90 per cent of our activity

involved trying to get round state obstacles to our work, and most of the rest involved trying to explain to ordinary people that we were not thieves, we were only trying to do business". He said bitterly that "when Western representatives speak to parliament here about the need for economic change they are applauded. When we do something about it, we are called mafia".

Another view was summed up by a Lithuanian. "It is this village caddy of anyone who does a bit better for himself. You know what we say here: every Lithuanian hopes that his neighbour's horse will die".

The legal investigation of Interlita is continuing. It chiefly concerns the supposedly improper permission from Mrs Prunskiene's government to convert money held in bank accounts for paper transactions between enterprises into cash, which could be used in black market deals and to buy hard currency at public auctions.

In the Soviet Union, turning large sums of money in bank accounts into cash is a complicated process and Interlita's directors insist they were simply helping Lithuania to overcome the Soviet blockade.

As the chief state inspector investigating the company, Vidas Kundrotas, admitted, the real basis for action against Interlita was that the company allegedly

harmed national interests selling its computers not Lithuania but in Moscow return for roubles, bringing worthless paper money in Lithuania and fueling inflation. Interlita's directors reply that they sold as many computers Lithuania, and that the roubles they made were spent on goods or hard currency.

● VILNIUS: A Lithuanian working group is to visit Moscow today for talks with Soviet representatives on resuming negotiations between the Lithuanian and Soviet governments broken off by Moscow last autumn (Anatol Lieven writes). A meeting between full delegations is supposed to follow tomorrow. A previous visit Moscow by the Lithuanian team came to nothing when the Soviet side failed to appear.

## East German reform hit by murder of privatisation chief

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN AND IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THE murder of Detlev Rohwedder, who led the agency responsible for privatising the state-run companies of the former German Democratic Republic since last August, has cast a shadow over the economic recovery of east Germany. Herr Rohwedder, the head of the Treuhanderorganisation, had become the human symbol for Bonn's economic policies to rid the east of the legacy of communism.

His death on Monday night, for which the radical Red Army Faction claimed responsibility, shocked colleagues at his organisation's headquarters in Berlin, who described him yesterday as "the personification of the Treuhander", an identity which proved fatal. Herr Rohwedder had not been popular in east Germany, where he was responsible for closing hundreds of obsolete factories.

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, who had relied on Herr Rohwedder's management skills to rescue the east German economy quickly, said in a statement from his holiday hotel in Austria he was shaken by the news, and praised the patriotism and sense of duty of the Treuhander leader. "I am personally grateful to him for his valuable advice."

The assassination, while fitting the broad pattern of the faction's murders of prominent industrialists, has wider implications than previous killings. It is the first attack on a figure known principally for his work in the east, an area which until now has been spared the extremists' attentions, and an alliance of international left-wing groups



Herrgert Rohwedder: was wounded in the attack

is suspected of co-ordinating the precision operation. Police believe the faction could be receiving help from agents of the former Stasi secret police and French Action Directe extremists. The killing also heralds the interest of Germany's leading extremist group, responsible for the murder last year of the Deutsche Bank chairman, Alfred Herrhausen, in a society now arrived at the cutting edge of capitalism.

The murder occurred just before midnight on Monday as Herr Rohwedder was standing at the window of his luxury home overlooking the Rhine in Düsseldorf. The killer was a marksman who had studied the lifestyle of his quarry thoroughly. Only three shots were fired and one of them hit Herr Rohwedder's wife, Herrgert, wounding her slightly. Yesterday, police searching a garden plot across the road found a note bearing the traditional Red Army Faction logo of crossed Kalashnikovs on a five-pointed star and claiming responsibility for the murder. The killing comes as unrest in the east is growing with the

traditional weekly demonstrations in Leipzig and other main cities again a feature of the region's political landscape. In recent weeks, the Treuhander had been the butt of protesters' complaints that Bonn's policy of rapid privatisation was responsible for rising unemployment.

Manfred Stolpe, the prime minister of Brandenburg, said yesterday that he feared Herr Rohwedder's murder indicated the readiness of underground activists to "climb on board the existing unrest and dissatisfaction in the east". He said that the murder should act as "the most urgent of warnings" to all who bear political and economic responsibility for unification to combine forces to tackle the emergency in the new Länder without social disintegration.

In an Easter letter to employees, Herr Rohwedder had described the aims of the organisation, "the difficult task of carrying responsibility for painful but unavoidable changes which are necessary to reach our common goal". The Treuhander's responsibility for 8,000 companies makes it the world's largest single concern. He knew that its course was controversial and observed it often served as the whipping boy of popular discontent, protecting Herr Kohl's government. But he believed that only a swift clearance of the old structures could provide a sound base for prosperity. Birgit Breuel, a member of the Treuhander executive, said the organisation would honour his memory by carrying on his work.

Several leading politicians have voiced suspicions that Herr Rohwedder's death may have involved the former Stasi, which in the past helped shelter and train faction activists. Last week, Günter Neiber, the Stasi general in charge of the extremists given asylum in the east, was arrested on suspicion of having trained guerrillas for the 1981 attack on the American base at Ramstein. Former Stasi agents are also thought to have been behind the firebombing of one of the agency's branch offices in east Berlin last week.

The involvement of Action Directe in killing Herr Rohwedder is suggested by the fact that the faction proudly claimed responsibility for its attack in a telephone call to Agence France-Presse, the news agency, in Paris. Counter-intelligence services have long suspected that left-wing extremists have collaborated in actions designed to undermine capitalist society.

Obituary, page 14



Happy eater: a Soviet soldier shows his delight after managing to buy bread and milk in Moscow yesterday as greatly increased prices came into effect. Report, page 1

## Gorbachev agrees to join talks with striking miners

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

ABOUT 400 managers, engineers and workers at the Soviet Union's strike-bound coal mines began talks with the government yesterday as President Gorbachev, in a significant concession, agreed that he would take part in some of the discussions.

Vitali Ignatenko, the presidential spokesman, confirmed that the president had backed off his earlier refusal to meet the miners, many of whom want him and the entire Soviet leadership to step down in favour of Boris Yeltsin and leaders of other republics.

He said that the meeting started as a result of a "reasonable compromise" reached by both sides after considering the grave situation in the country, particularly in the coal-mining areas. Strike leaders in the Kuzbass area of Siberia, where opposition to Mr Gorbachev is strongest,

met early yesterday and issued a statement challenging the legitimacy of the delegates from their region attending the Moscow talks.

While the talks quickly became bogged down over the issue of whether political demands should be included, the fact that they took place at all marked a considerable step forward on the government's part. Mr Ignatenko said the government was prepared to consider demands for pay rises of up to 150 per cent, indexation and improved pension rights.

The Soviet government agreed to the inclusion of representatives of the recently formed Independent Miners' Union which claims to speak for militant pit-workers in all the main coal regions. The union is bitterly at odds with the official coal industry union, traditionally part of the

Communist establishment. It said it was summoned for a preliminary talks with Mikhail Shchadov, the coal industry minister, on Monday, but had received an invitation to yesterday's meeting only an hour before it began. According to the union's figures, the month-long stoppage has affected about 220 pits and involved 220,000 miners, twice as many as took part in the 1989 dispute.

Another move which could ease tension in the pits came at the Russian Federation Congress, where after six days of threats from the communist delegation, it was made plain that the communists would not try to unseat Mr Yeltsin from the Russian presidency. Some miners have said they may return to work if they are satisfied that Mr Yeltsin's position is safe.

## Democrat die as Albanians seize party HQ

FROM JOHN HOLLAND IN TIRANA

SUPPORTERS of Albania's opposition, angered by their election defeat, occupied the headquarters of the ruling communists in the northern industrial city of Shkoder yesterday after clashes with police in which at least four people were killed.

A spokesman for the opposition Democratic party in Shkoder, contacted by telephone from Tirana, said crowds of anti-communist demonstrators occupied the headquarters at midday and vowed to defend it from police with arms they had found in the building.

The dead included the local anti-communist opposition leader. Army tanks were reported to be patrolling the streets in Shkoder. Several other people may have also been killed by police gunfire while a dozen people were gravely wounded, including a boy, aged 14, according to an opposition source whose report was confirmed by a high-ranking Tirana communist.

Dramatic television pictures filtering back to Tirana showed the communist party headquarters in Shkoder to have been badly damaged and in flames. Two charred, smouldering army personnel carriers parked in front of the building were also in flames. Riot police were seen standing in a circle round the party headquarters several hours after the shooting stopped.

There was also conclusive evidence that the local leader of the Democratic party, Arben Broci, was lying dead on a stretcher with relatives and friends weeping over him. Mr Broci had been shot dead by an unknown gunman whom several witnesses said had fired from communist party headquarters when Mr Broci tried to mediate between the two sides.

An Italian parliamentarian and election observer, Pietro Ago, who visited Shkoder yesterday, said police and civilian groups had set up road blocks outside the city limits to prevent people from getting in and turning the clashes into an armed revolt.

The clashes followed a demonstration on Monday night organised by the Democratic party, which was defeated nationally in last weekend's elections but which won a big victory in Shkoder.

In Tirana, riot police were stationed near the Democratic and communist Party of Labour headquarters in case trouble spread, though experts predicted that the Adriatic city of Durres, where the Democrats also won, was more likely to see violence. Bitterness is running deep among the Democratic faithful, who

believe the communists stole the election.

There have been no opposition complaints voting irregularities in right fraud, including station at some remote stations by communist officials. But few if any reports have been sent.

Edmond Hasbiu, a old musician from Suk that in his town the aut were considering repe ballot because so charges of manipulat fraud had been made.

Other villagers on to Durres claimed a been paid 500 lek (nearly £50) per person for the Party of Several hundred Al including 51 soldiers ported to have fled on the night of the election.

● PARIS: Four of Albanian national soccer which played an inter in Paris on Saturday, in France after the m sports daily *L'Equipe* yesterday. Three othe 16 players defected o during a stopo Switzerland. (Reuter)

## Moscow offer reject

Washington — American officials have dismissed an offer from President Gorbachev to President Bush of compromise to try to settle the dispute over a implementation Conventional Forces op treaty (Martin writes).

The dispute has b serious irritant in U relations. The White refusing to schedule a row superpower sum it is resolved. The cor Moscow's attempt to vent the treaty by reing three motorise divisions as naval un

## Walesa ple

Brussels — President of Poland is visiting for talks with official European Commun Nato to declare that it free but needy states any Europe want a their markets and th actions. President H Czechoslovakia was scs before Easter

## Moreau aw

The actress Jeanne aged 63, Jean-Paul who staged the Frencl tion biocentenary p 1989, and Pierre Cu fashion designer, we those decorated in th Legion d'honneur li was announced by ristan Official Gazette

## Rebel claim

London — Ethiopia claimed they had Nekemte, the cap Wollega province, a they now controlled i province which lies to Addis Ababa. If con will be the latest in a successes for the E People's Revolutionary ocratic Front.

## Swedes free

Strangar — Two Swe gineers kidnapped in ruled Kashmir on Su unidentified gunme been freed unharmed said. Johan Jansson, Olle Loman, 37, were at the Kashmir valley Beera, it was not clear by security forces or kidnappers. (Reuter)

## Croat police given army ultimatum

FROM DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

YUGOSLAVIA took a step closer to civil war yesterday when the army issued an ultimatum to Croatian police to withdraw from the trouble-plagued region or be evicted. Two people were killed on Sunday in clashes in the area and the army has been deployed to prevent fighting between Serbs and Croats.

The army order came a day after the Serbian minority in Croatia announced that it was linking a large part of the republic to Serbia. The Croatian authorities had already withdrawn the crack police unit from the Plitvice national park and replaced it with a regular militia.

But the move defied orders by the Yugoslav state presidency that all police units, including rebel Serb units, be withdrawn while the Yugoslav army patrolled the region.

Hostilities between the Serbs and the Croats, on whose relations Yugoslavia's future depends, have increased since the clash on Sunday, particularly after Serbs said the Krajina region, predominantly populated by Serbs, was to join Serbia.

The declaration, read to several hundred Serbs in Titova, Korenica, on Monday by Milan Babic, an extremist who chairs the Serbian national council, provoked anger among Croatian leaders. Croatia had earlier said that it would use every means to restore constitutional order in the region, where the Serbs have organised their own police force and have since Sunday been calling up reservists and appealing to Serbia for police reinforcements and weapons.

Milan Martić, the chief of the Serbian rebel police in Koin, who on Sunday masterminded the attack in Plitvice in which Croatian police unit buses were ambushed, said in a radio broadcast that Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, had promised assistance and weapons if the Serbian population in Croatia were threatened with attack. However, Mr Milosevic has so far remained silent on the tense situation in Croatia and has not commented on the unilateral decision of Serbs in Krajina to unite with Serbia.

## Best-seller gives X-rated Hollywood the horrors

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

FROM the poolside of Los Angeles to the canyons of Manhattan, not one player in the film business is admitting to reading a book that has jumped faster into the US best-seller lists than any other this year.

You'll Never Eat Lunch in This Town Again is a prophetically titled memoir by Julia Phillips, who shared the best film Oscar in 1973 for *The Sting* and co-produced *Taxi Driver* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* before drifting into cocaine and alcohol. It has wounded some of the most battle-hardened egos of the film business.

"This is surely the nastiest, most mean-spirited book ever written about showbiz," said *Variety*, when *Lunch* appeared earlier this month. It has sold out in Los Angeles and New York and leaped straight to number three on the

national best-seller list last week. Among her less libellous remarks, she dismisses Steven Spielberg as "selfish, egomaniacal and greedy", calls Martin Scorsese a misogynist, says Cybill Shepherd is a bad actress hired for her "fat ass", and calls David Geffen, one of the most powerful producers, a "collagen-face" obsessed with money. The lawyers of Random House out 1,000 pages to 560, but unprintable anecdotes abound.

As a result, Phillips, aged 47, has been barred from Morton's, Hollywood's power restaurant, and sacked from her only project as producer of a vampire film. Geffen, who took the job away, denounced her in *Time* magazine this week as "a nasty, mean-spirited sociopath". Phillips, now working on a novel, says she pulled her punches. "They're all much worse. Hollywood is a place

that attracts people with massive holes in their souls."

Since ambitious Americans are now registering their future offspring for Harvard and Yale before birth, it is not surprising that parents are agonising more than ever over names. They are receiving advice from a battery of experts who claim a given name may determine whether the child reaches boardroom or jail.

According to Dr Albert Mehrabian, author of *The Decision that Lasts a Lifetime*, the wrong name is "a mistake of tragic proportion". His book, a best-seller, claims scientific evidence for rating names in terms of the personality they convey. If you want your boy to succeed in business, his chances will improve if you call him James, Madison, Charles, Alexander or

Kenneth, in descending order of perceived clout.

For a future female achiever, you are advised to stick with Jacqueline, Katherine, Samantha, Victoria or Lauren.

Ten bucks a head for more than four passengers



Only a New York cab driver could find six human heads on the street and rank it second or third on the list of bizarre things he has seen. Gheorghe Casas stopped in the

East Village of Manhattan for coffee at 3am on Monday and found a cardboard box. "I looked in the box and said 'that's a head, six heads, all with faces'. One had a moustache, one had a brain attached. I told people I would take them to the police and someone said: 'They're not yours'."

Police suspected the worst since it was only a month since a local resident was sentenced to prison for dismembering his girlfriend and feeding her body to the local homeless. But the investigation found that the heads were destined for a local teaching hospital.

Dr William Portnoy, a junior doctor, had left them in his car, which was then stolen. The thief threw the heads on the street but kept the car. Mr Casas, a Romanian, said he had been more shocked watching two murders than finding the heads.

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Paris push  
to protect  
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at UN

Franz J. Scherz

The UN Security Council has rejected a French proposal to send troops to protect Kurds in Iraq.

The proposal, which was backed by the United States, was rejected by a vote of 12 to 9.

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# thuanians challenge rebel claims over retaking Kirkuk

FROM REUTERS IN WASHINGTON AND DAMASCUS

harm national interest... selling its computers... Lithuania but in Moscow... return for roubles... worthless paper money... Lithuania and fueling... Interim's directors... they sold as many computers... Lithuania, and that... they made were spent... or hard currency.

● VILNIUS: A Lithuanian defence official yesterday challenged a claim that Kurdish rebels had retaken the city of Kirkuk, and said troops from the city of Kirkuk, and said troops broken off by Moscow, Hussein appeared to remain in control there.

A meeting between the two sides is supposed to be taking place tomorrow. A previous attempt to meet in Moscow by the Lithuanians basically, said one of the officials when asked whether US intelligence indicated Kirkuk, in northern Iraq, had been retaken six days after the Kurds lost it to Saddam's forces.

"We have no evidence that it has happened," said another of the defence officials, who asked not to be identified. "The government seems to be in control."

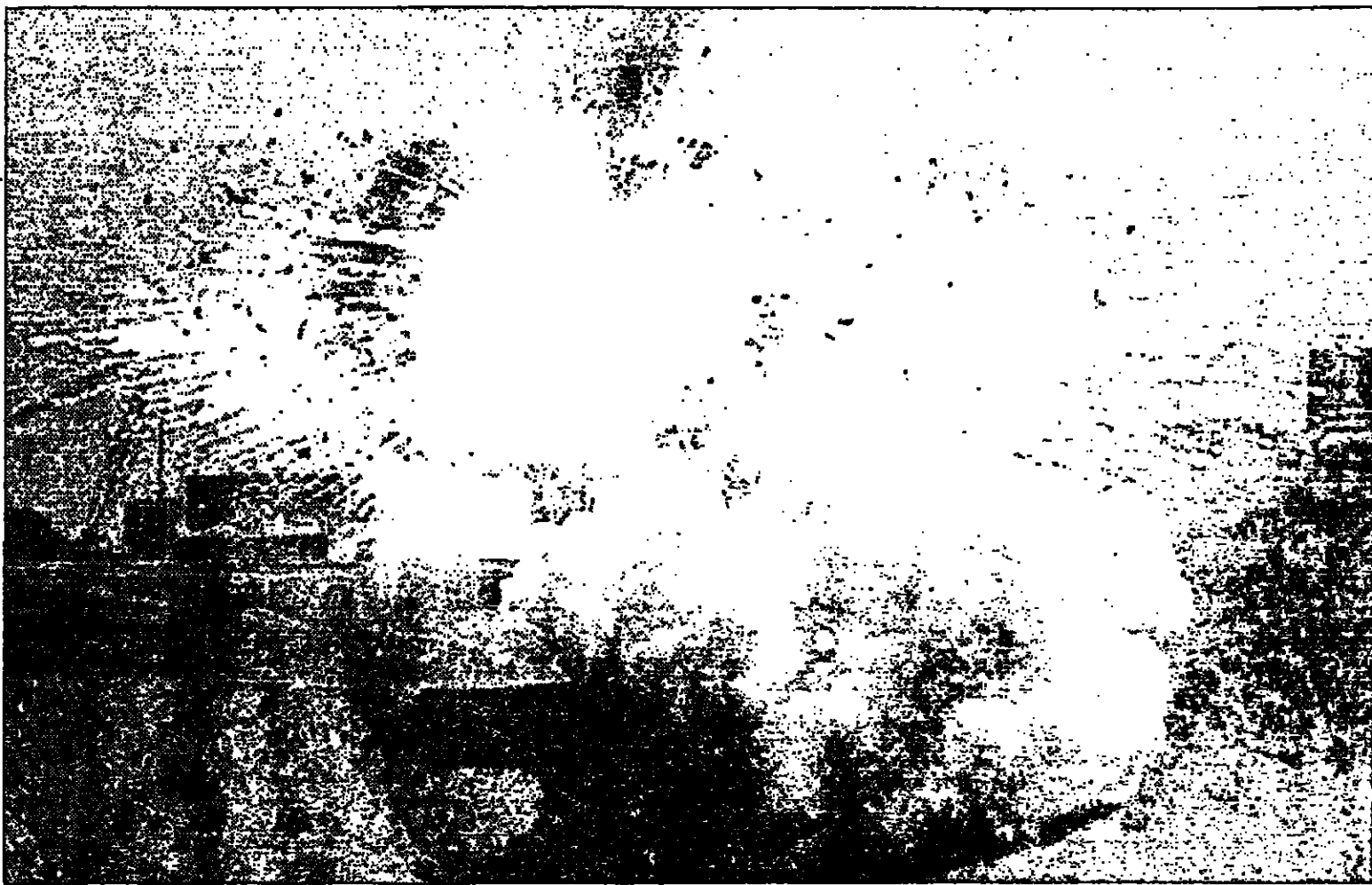
Rebel Kurds said on Tuesday that they had retaken Kirkuk, and there is some fighting going on in the city, but a Damascus spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said he had no information on the recapture of Kirkuk. But he reported fighting eight km (five miles) east of the city on the road to Sulaimaniya, a Kurdish city believed to be still in rebel hands, and at the nearby village of Kara-Hanjir.

Kirkuk produced one third of Iraq's oil before the Gulf crisis and controls a key oil pipeline. The fall of Kirkuk could be the first big reversal for Saddam's troops who wrested back most towns in north Iraq from the Kurds in a lightning offensive begun on Thursday. On Monday Kurdish rebels conceded that they had retreated from Kirkuk and the towns of Irbil and Dahuk, Baghdad said. Zakhro, near the Turkish border, was also back in its hands.

Earlier, rebel spokesmen said Saddam's forces on Tuesday cut the main road from Iraq to Syria, a potential escape route for refugees, and attacked some of the last rebel-held towns from the air.

Ankara said on Monday Iraqi troops had recaptured the main Habur border post with Turkey, cutting off another possible escape route for tens of thousands of Iraqi Kurds said to be fleeing the fighting. About 30 foreign correspondents trapped by the fighting in north Iraq escaped to Turkey on Monday night, some by foot and others by swimming across a river.

Turkey's Anatolian news agency quoted some of the escapees as saying one foreign correspondent had died in the fighting and two others were injured. It did not name them.



Big bang: An experimental rocket motor, being tested at Edwards Air Force Base, California, for the Titan IV programme, exploding during its first test firing. Dennis Shoffner, a spokesman for the base, said it was not known what went wrong. Damage was confined to the immediate testing area and nobody was injured. The 110ft rocket motor was to be "statically fired", or held in a stand, while its thrust and performance were measured. Mr Shoffner said. "The whole reason that you test is to find out how things are going," he said. "I'm sure we'll learn a lot from this." Colonel Frank Stirling, the Titan IV programme director, said: "This was the first in a series of five tests that we planned to conduct to develop and qualify a new solid rocket motor for the Titan IV launch vehicle." The upgraded motor is intended to allow the Titan IV to carry larger, heavier payloads. It was designed to be 25 per cent more powerful than the current Titan booster, the base had said earlier.

## US warns Baghdad troops to pull back

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

● WASHINGTON: Four of the 16 players of the American military yesterday warned Iraqi troops to move back from a new position within about 10,000 yards of the Kuwaiti border. At the same time, the US administration reacted cautiously to the move into allied-controlled territory.

A White House spokesman said the United States was not immediately worried by the reported movement towards Kuwait of troops loyal to President Saddam Hussein since the month-old ceasefire went into effect. No shots were fired, but the American military warned an unknown number of Iraqi soldiers involved to leave. Central Command didn't make it look like a big deal, a spokesman said. "We have not seen anything else."

The troop movements immediately raised questions about whether the Iraqis were trying to creep into the allied-controlled territory to claim more ground before the United Nations draws up a permanent ceasefire accord. As the administration played down the moves, President Bush continued to resist domestic pressure from the political right. Iraqi Kurdish rebels and Democratic leaders assist anti-Saddam insurgents under attack from forces loyal to the Iraqi leader.

## Paris push to protect Kurds fails at UN

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

FRANCE summoned a meeting of the five permanent members of the security council yesterday to seek United Nations action to protect the Iraqi Kurds. But diplomats at the meeting said the French initiative floundered on the cardinal UN principle of non-interference in the affairs of member countries. Any easing of that rule could allow the security council to intervene in Northern Ireland.

At the consultations, the French delegation asked Britain, China, the Soviet Union and the United States to consider amending the Gulf ceasefire resolution now under discussion in the security council to offer rebellious Iraqi Kurds protection from government troops.

The French wanted the resolution, which could be passed as early as today, to guarantee that Iraq would respect the rights of the Kurdish minority. France also asked for Martti Ahtisaari, a UN envoy who recently visited Iraq and Kuwait to assess war damage, to be sent to the Kurdish areas of Iraq.

Aware that the UN seldom tackles the internal affairs of member states, French diplomats put a brave face on the initiative and continued consultations with the 10 non-permanent council members.

Diplomats predicted that France, along with other council members, would raise their concerns about the Kurds in speeches, but take no concrete action. "Why get a bloody nose?" asked one diplomat.

During the Iran-Iraq war, when Kurds were gassed by Iraqi forces, the UN limited itself to condemning the use of chemical weapons in the war, an international rather than internal conflict.

## Bush calls for more Kuwait democracy

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

RESIDENT Bush has sent a letter to the emir of Kuwait in which he apparently urged the introduction of greater democracy.

A White House spokesman confirmed on Monday night that the president had sent a letter "talking about the political and economic challenges Kuwait". He refused to disclose its contents, but commented: "Obviously the US values democratic change and supports democracy... if course we'd prefer change at the pace of it is for the Kuwaitis themselves to decide."

In Kuwait City, a spokesman for the emir also condemned the existence of the

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# How teachers can again walk tall

The Easter jamboree of the National Union of Teachers provided plenty of ammunition for teacher-bashing. To anyone outside the union, the idea of boycotting the testing of pupils or a strike over the restoration of negotiating rights is absurd. Such action could only be counter-productive when teachers are held in such low esteem by the public.

But now is not the time for teacher-baiting. Even the prime minister recognises that the demoralisation of teachers is a formidable obstacle to educational reform. A better idea would be to turn a blind eye to the posturing (nothing is likely to happen), and ask about the significance of the degeneration in NUT politics.

The reality is worse than the headlines. I understand that for the first time, almost half the delegates could loosely be described as ultra-left, or akin to the Bennite coalition in the Labour party a decade ago. Almost a quarter of the union's executive is from the same stable. The name of the game is militancy, whatever the price.

What has happened to the NUT (which still represents 40 per cent of all teachers) is an extreme example of what has been happening in some other professional public-sector unions. As their social status and remuneration

have fallen in comparison with other groups of workers, so their unions, which were once more like professional associations, have started to behave in a manner similar to blue-collar unions in the public sector. The professional ethic in the NUT - involving a vocation, a commitment to service, exclusivity and expertise - has largely been undermined, hence the willingness on the part of too many teachers to deploy industrial action against the public.

This decline in professionalism, which is reflected in the behaviour of the NUT, is at the heart of the demoralisation of teachers. Until the late 1960s, teachers were held in high regard. They enjoyed a reasonable standard of living and considerable status.

From 1945, education was seen as the key to breaking down class barriers and widening opportunity. Teachers were shock troops in a social revolution. But by the Seventies, these dreams had largely evaporated. There was disillusionment about what was taught, concern about the breakdown in social discipline, and

**This week's display of NUT militancy is the result of a steady fall in relative pay and status, says Martin Jacques: he proposes a new deal to attract the best**

anxiety about the state of inner-city schools. By the Eighties teachers were now blamed for the state of education and society. Their pay fell relative to other groups, and their hours increased. A fifth of them now drink too much, and a quarter suffer stress-related illnesses. Once a respected figure in the community, a teacher is now someone who is poorly paid, shabbily dressed and has an old banger in the school car park.



The NUT in session this week: hard left and unconstructive

Everyone knows that public-sector professionals have done badly in recent years compared to their equivalents in the private sector, but what is not widely recognised is how badly teachers have done relative to professionals in that other major public service, health.

Between 1981 and 1989, the real income of nurses increased by 38 per cent and that of doctors by 26 per cent. Meanwhile the income of primary and secondary school

teachers rose by 17 per cent and 16 per cent respectively. The comparison is even sharper over the period 1973-90: the real income of nurses rose by 62 per cent, that of teachers by a miserable 13 per cent.

Why have health service professionals done so much better? One reason is that the teaching profession is hopelessly divided, with six different teacher unions. Another is that part of the increase in the health service was funded by squeezing the income of an-

cillary staff, whereas there is no such possibility in education. Additionally, education is used by only a minority of society at a time, while the health service commands a bigger constituency and therefore broader support.

Finally, whereas the government has largely been blamed for the state of the health service, the opposite has happened in education. The teachers have been seen as mainly responsible, with their willingness to strike in the 1980s doing their reputation considerable harm. Only 37 per cent of the British public still have confidence in our education system, far lower than in any other European country.

Reforms of the public sector in the Eighties were largely driven by a notion of consumer choice. Little attention has been paid to the morale, commitment and quality of those providing the service. That has largely been taken for granted. Yet without a new culture, a new professional ethos, no renaissance of the educational system is possible.

Money is not everything, but

clearly it is the starting point in building a new, high-status profession. The government should immediately promise teachers 20 per cent pay increase, with guarantee that in future they will keep abreast of non-manual workers. Such an increase would wonders for morale, begin to attract higher-quality recruits, and would help raise the social standing of the profession.

But that can only be a beginning. The range of people attracted into teaching needs to be greatly extended to include executive older people and graduate high fliers (the number of Cambridge graduates going into teaching is year barely reached two figures), proper career structure is needed to reward the experienced teacher who wants to teach rather than minister. There is a strong argument too for a new structure perhaps of three tiers, with teachers, teachers and teachers' assistants. And as the government has rightly insisted, the teaching profession should be accountable and transparent.

And what of the NUT and other unions? It would be fine to think they will lead the charge. They are far too defensive, national and confused. But initiatives like this would serve either to transform or to marginalise the

## Fossilised but always fun

Nigel Hawkes

Is it time for a museum of museums? As curators everywhere throw out their glass cases and usher in high-tech displays, the first glimmerings of nostalgia for old-fashioned museums are beginning to surface.

The backlash began in *New Scientist*, with a correspondent writing fondly of a visit to the natural history museum in East Berlin, a place that time has clearly forgotten. Here, he said, were all the flavours of a real museum: acres of beeswax mahogany, glass cases full of dead things, lumbering dinosaurs uninformatively captioned. There were no buttons to push, and there was no shop.

A second enthusiast has since commended in particular Berlin's display of inflated caecilians, British too, he pointed out, had plenty of stimulating examples: he cited the Booth Museum of Natural History in Brighton for its bird dioramas, "many of them exact recreations of where the specimens were shot", a picture of a tiger entirely made from the wings of tortoiseshell butterflies, and a rabbit that had its ears blown off during the war.

Clearly we are not meant to take this seriously, but nevertheless there is a serious point to be made. Many of the great collections at the heart of our museums began as "cabinets of curiosities" collected by men such as Elias Ashmole, bizarre accumulations of objects that marked the shift in taste away from art and towards the sciences in the 17th century.

Ashmole's collection, which forms the basis of the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, contained minerals, bird, insects and animals, including a stuffed dodo. There were also oddities such as a woman's breeches from Abyssinia, a purse made of toad skin and Henry VIII's dog collar.

Until recently, museums retained the flavour of the mad collector. Their cases were filled with an eclectic combination of objects important or merely odd. The advance of science eliminated the more peculiar pieces from display, but the spirits of men who collected compulsively long hung over many museums and gave them their charm.

Today the emphasis is on leading visitors by the hand towards understanding. To oppose this change would be curmudgeonly, for the museums have to earn their crust in hard times, and that means change: new galleries, new techniques for explaining the principles of science and natural history, lots of buttons and flashing lights. As surely as the Deutschmark swallowed the Ostmark, this change will eventually come to Berlin, too.

In Britain fears have been expressed that scholarship will decline because the museum revolution downgrades the curators. No longer can they reign supreme over their galleries, seeking out new objects to display, packing them into cases several layers deep and then failing to get around to providing a catalogue. But there is no logical reason why scholarship should not survive and flourish if the changes do in fact increase visitor numbers and income. What the curators have lost is status, not the ability to do good work.

To many, the national museums were temples to knowledge and sent some visitors away inspired. No doubt there were many more who were bored and bewildered and could not wait to get out into the sun again, but it is striking how often scientists and engineers mention the dusty museums with their finger-marked cases as the source of their childhood inspiration.

The Science Museum, at least, is aware of the danger, and has several ideas for countering it. Already it is possible by request to visit overflow storage areas near Earls Court where objects banished as a result of changes at South Kensington can be seen in rather basic displays. In the future, the museum is to introduce the idea of "open storage" in the main museum, a mass of objects with information available about each.

In this way the administrators hope to preserve the sense of a museum full of objects as well as interactive displays. Somehow I doubt that we shall see many purses made of toad skin, or Abyssinian trousers - but somewhere there ought to be a home for them, too, if only to remind us how museums came to be created.

## Hope now for the hostages?

In the words of Terry Waite's cousin John, the release of Roger Cooper "brightens the sky a heck of a lot". If the British and other Western hostages held for years in cramped and dismal cells by kidnapping gangs in Lebanon know of Mr Cooper's release, they too may allow themselves a glimmer of hope.

On the other hand, as John Waite also observed, the Cooper case does not necessarily have any implications for the hostages. As if to justify this caution, within minutes of Mr Cooper's arrival at Heathrow, Reuters quoted an unnamed pro-Iranian Lebanese fundamentalist leader as saying that the question of hostages in Lebanon remained "at a standstill".

Yet there is a connection, difficult though it sometimes is to discern through the maze of Lebanese and Iranian politics. The fate of Terry Waite, John McCarthy, Jackie Mann and the nine other Western hostages still in the kidnappers' hands depends on a network of overt, clandestine and semi-clandestine links involving the Iranian government of President Rafsanjani (which is relatively pragmatic), Mr Rafsanjani's critics among the Iranian fundamentalists (who are vehemently anti-Western), Syria's role in Lebanon, Britain's relations with Damascus and Tehran, and obscure feuds between the Shia Muslim family clans of Lebanon from which the kidnappers sprang.

The Foreign Office is convinced that Iran holds the key to the hostages' release. But will the continuing improvement in Anglo-Iranian relations lead Tehran to step up its efforts to free them? Indeed, can it force the kidnappers to unchain their captives and end their ordeal even if it wanted to?

British officials yesterday were careful to stress there was no immediate expectation of further releases of hostages. Mr Cooper had been under the control of the Iranian authorities, but even his release was a difficult matter for President Rafsanjani, given the opposition from the militant mullahs of the Islamic regime he heads.

Moreover, John Major's government is as opposed to deals over hostages as was Mrs Thatcher. There is no question of paying ransoms, however dis-



Richard Owen examines the tangled web of relations with Tehran in the light of Roger Cooper's release

guised, to the kidnappers through obscure third parties, as is widely believed to have happened in the case of some French and German hostages. Britain yesterday denied that the deportation last month of Mehdiad Kowabi, an Iranian student accused of an arson attack on a bookshop selling Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*, was directly linked to the Cooper case.

In Iran, many fundamentalists will angrily assume that Roger Cooper's release is part of President Rafsanjani's policy of steadily improving ties with the West, and Britain in particular. The country's more pragmatic leaders perceive the need to rebuild economic links with the West, and to capitalise on Saddam Hussein's blunders over Kuwait, by reasserting Iran's role as the dominant regional power. Given the sensitivity of Iranian relations

with America, the "Great Satan", London is a useful channel.

Relations were improving in the late Eighties. After a spate of tit-for-tat diplomatic expulsions, Iran opened talks with Britain in 1988 on mutual compensation for damage to each other's embassies. David Reddaway, a fluent Farsi speaker with an Iranian wife, was sent as charge d'affaires to the Tehran embassy. Then in February 1989 came the Salman Rushdie affair, with the late Ayatollah Khomeini's fatwa condemning Rushdie to death and breaking off relations. These were partially restored last September, but Britain seeks three gestures before reinstating full diplomatic ties: the end of the Rushdie affair, the release of Mr Cooper, and progress on the hostages. The Rushdie affair, though not ended, has been brushed under the carpet,

Roger Cooper has won his freedom, but the hostages remain in captivity.

The difficulty is not only that Mr Rafsanjani must proceed with extreme care to avoid jeopardising his position at home, but to that he may have limited influence over the Lebanese kidnappers. The kidnappers are pro-Iranian. Islamic Jihad, which is believed to hold Waite, McCarthy and the American journalist Terry Anderson, is a faction of Hezbollah (the Party of God), a powerful Shia Muslim organisation created by Iran with the specific aim of fostering the fundamentalist revolution under Iran. But Islamic Jihad is guided by Ayatollah Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who was sacked by President Rafsanjani as interior minister, and remains a leading hardliner with influence in Lebanon.

Many of the kidnap gangs family networks run by men whose loyalty is to the clan. Mafia-like chieftains include I. Mughniyeh, who has a long history of involvement in hijackings Husain Musawi, who has ties to Syria as well as Iran; and the Hamadi brothers, one of whom Mohammed - was given a sentence for his part in the TWA hijacking. In addition slums of Beirut have spawned other groups of fanatics which even less is known, such as the "Organisation of the Pressed on Earth" and "Revolutionary Organisation Socialist Muslims". Just many people hide behind fanciful names is not to perhaps not even to Pres Rafsanjani.

Some experts on the M East, British officials among them, believe President Rafsanjani knows more than he tells, a failing to put as much pressure on the kidnappers as he might. The Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, said Iran admitted it had "humanitarian influence" in Lebanon.

While not wishing to sound optimistic, the Foreign Office has linked the Cooper case with the Beirut hostages by doing that full restoration of diplomatic relations between Lebanon and Tehran will come only all hostages are freed. I Cooper's release marks a significant advance in Anglo-Iranian relations, and promotes Pres Rafsanjani's aim of improving relations with Britain as a test to the West.

Mr Cooper's release also fits the attempt by a more moderate Lebanese government to end its authority, and the fit during Iraq's invasion of Kuwait of a group of Shia Muslims (including Mughniyeh's brother) jailed for acts of terrorism. Kuwait in 1983. These should have brought close relations of the Beirut hostages.

But suspicion of the West remains a potent and exorable force, just as Western suspicion of Iran's fundamentalist ambitions in the region remains strong. Building on the Cooper release is a delicate task with potential pitfalls.

## ...and moreover CRAIG BROWN

I was delighted to be a guest at the first annual dinner/dance of the Video Retailers Association, that stalwart body of men and women who have done so much to enliven the high streets of the most fuddy-duddy of our English towns and villages.

It was, as you might imagine, the swiftest of occasions. The chief barker announced each couple as they entered the great ballroom. "They're back!" he yelled in a voice trembling with excitement. "The hair-raising couple they just can't tame! - Mr and Mrs Reginald Scrimp!! He is caught up in a trap of his own making. She will stop at nothing. And only one of them will get out alive!!!"

Mr and Mrs R. Scrimp, owners of a burgeoning video hire store in West Malling, then shuffled in, their timid expressions betraying characters just that little bit less exciting than the claims that preceded them, but that is so often the case, don't you find? The chief barker then announced the next couple.

"Two people living in the shadow of murder. And one guy who wants to see them suffer. Mr and Mrs E. Blegg, joint proprietors of Video Pix from Ealing in west London and their son, Master Blegg!! The Bleggs, a pleasant if sheepish-looking couple, then entered, with their son Mark lagging sluggishly behind.

Luckily enough, I found myself next to Mrs Blegg at dinner. I asked her how she had got into

the video business in the first place. "I used to be a librarian," she explained, dabbing at the corners of her mouth with a napkin. "But I soon wanted out. And nobody - but nobody - was gonna stand in my way! In this game, you're survivin' on the far edge of fantasy. And not a living soul can hear you when you scream!"

But the transition from librarian to video retailer had not been without its troubles. "I made those guys see sense in the only way I knew how," she explained to me.

"And what might that have been?" I asked, politely. "PURE TERROR!!!" she replied, taking a small sip of dry white wine.

It was at this stage of the evening that I first began to notice small but telling similarities between my fellow diners and their wares. Some time between the end of the prawn cocktail and the beginning of the duck à l'orange, a fist-fight developed between the principal of Rewind Hall (the prestigious training college for the video industry) and the grand vizier of the Lodge of Video-Retailing Masons.

Within minutes there was mayhem, with Miss Elsie Platt of Video Ventures, Great Missenden, single-handedly steering a nuclear-powered tank into the main table, and Mr S. Jarvis of Video Box, Whitehaven, counter-attacking with a crack team of hardened jailbirds, hand-picked for ruthlessness.

But do not imagine that the day-to-day video retail trade is so exciting. I emerged from the rubble bearing an invitation to Rewind Hall. Once there, I was greeted by the principal, who looked very well despite the blood spouting from his stomach and the chain-saw embedded in his upper thigh. He escorted me to the classroom, where 35 students of video-retailing stood slouched behind desks eating crisps.

"This is where we teach the salesforce correct posture," he explained. "After all, when the customer enters a video outlet, he expects a decent slouch, an air of complete indifference and the incessant crinkle of a packet of crisps. This class spends at least five hours a day on slouching, and by the end of their time here they find that they can out-slouch their rivals good and proper, and many of them, as you can see, can slouch and eat crisps at the same time."

"Are they taught how to address the customer?" I asked. "Of course," said the principal, his voiced tinged with pride. "Just ask them any question, any question at all."

I opened my mouth, but before the first word had emerged, all 35 students had begun to chant in unison: "If it's not on the shelves, we ain't got it; if it's not on the shelves, we ain't got it."

My heart swelled with joy as I realised that the finest traditions of the video trade will be continued in years to come.

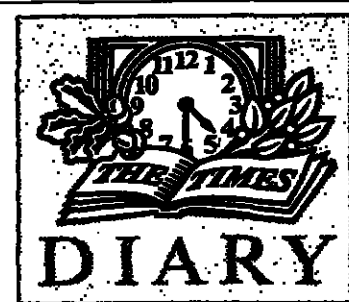
## Haute cuisine chez Cooper

A mixture of bawdy Islamic verse, a sense of humour kept going by a regular supply of English newspaper cartoons and his own inventive prison cooking maintained Roger Cooper's sanity during his five years' captivity in Tehran.

John Simpson, the BBC's foreign editor, who kept in touch with Cooper by letter throughout his imprisonment, says that with his charm and fluent Persian, Cooper persuaded his guards to let him cook his own supper. The fact explains why Cooper told waiting journalists when he arrived at Heathrow yesterday that his prison food had been "adequate, more than adequate on some days", for no chef, even an imprisoned one, is going to disparage his own cooking. So adept did Cooper become at creating fine cuisine out of the least promising foodstuffs that he told Simpson in one letter he was working on a captive's cookbook, news that has already excited the interest of the literary agents.

Simpson was also the source of the newspaper cartoons which allowed Cooper to keep smiling despite his grim situation. One that struck a particular chord and earned pride of place on the wall of his cell featured two dogs being served dinner by their mistress with a caption saying: "Goody, it's dog-food again."

While his taste-buds and sense of humour were kept active, Cooper also kept his mind agile by translating a collection of poetry written by the late Ayatollah Khomeini for *The Tehran Times*. "It's very bawdy stuff about venches and wine," says Simpson. "The authorities justified it by saying it was allegorical."



Big brother watches even his own kid and kin. Last year West Midlands police chiefs installed a system that logs all outgoing calls to help reduce telephone bills. An analysis of the first year of operation shows that officers on night shifts clocked up £1,800 worth of calls to sex-chat lines. A spokesman for the force says: "I imagine curiosity prompts them. In future curious coppers will have to phone from home; the system has been reprogrammed to block all such calls."

## Trouble avoided

Sir John Harvey-Jones, feared in boardrooms throughout the country for his forthright assessments in his television series *Troublemaker*, has put corporate poses out of joint at ICI, of which he was chairman for five years. His former fellow directors are so touchy about his forthcoming autobiography that they have insisted that he does not mention any of them by name.

"When my colleagues - with whom I thought I had worked amicably and with mutual respect for many years - heard that I intended to write my memoirs, they became very upset," says Harvey-Jones. "After interminable and, I felt, unnecessary discussion, I agreed not to identify them."

Harvey-Jones, who is currently filming in Hungary, can scarcely

disguise his annoyance at what he calls a "lack of trust", but he had little choice. The company maintains that his hands are tied by a confidentiality agreement signed in 1985, two years before he stepped down as chairman.

The book, *Getting It Together* - to be published later this month - is more open about Harvey-Jones's activities before he joined ICI, 35 years ago. He then worked in naval intelligence as a Russian translator, but it seems this high-security operation was far less secretive than the machinations of the board of a public company.

He doesn't mention you by name



## Open secret

American government officials investigating the clandestine Iraqi arms procurement network operating through British and American companies could have saved themselves a lot of trouble. Most of the companies on the list - and a good many more - were exposed last year, immediately after Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, in a book by Pierre Salinger, formerly President Kennedy's press secretary. The list includes not only front companies, but all those that knowingly or unwittingly supplied materials used in Iraq's chemical weapon armoury

and the development of its nuclear capability.

The book, *La Guerre du Le Dossier Secret*, went on sale in France in December and is expected here later this month. It includes 207 companies, America, Britain, France and many, and was supplied by American journalist, Ke Timmerman, who edits a weekly Middle East newsletter, *Paris*. The research had long been commissioned by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons as part of an enquiry into Saddam's use of poison gas in Iraq.

Timmerman is surprised it has taken the American government so long to come up with facts. "I know that my list seen at the American Department. I assume the cause was the embarrassment of Western governments to that Saddam was being arm companies operating right in their area."

Further enquiries have res in the original list growing total of 350 companies. "A lot in Germany, but the B contribution increased fast 1987."

## Window of change

A bastion of male privilege will fall in October. Sarah Coakley takes up post as theology tutor at College, Oxford - the first to do so in its 660-year history. A theology scholar from Easter University, the admi being nervous at the prospect of "Orientalism" she says of the last O college to admit women graduates. "The theology is ship used to be tied to the old Anglican chaplaincy. If weren't a priest who could brate the Eucharist, you considered a waste of money."

## CHINESE

China's new constitution, which came into effect last month, has been hailed as a landmark in the country's history. It is seen as a step towards modernisation and the rule of law. The constitution guarantees the rights of citizens and outlines the structure of the government. It also emphasises the role of the Communist Party of China in leading the country towards socialism. The new constitution is a result of years of debate and revision. It reflects the changing needs of China as it moves from a planned economy to a more market-oriented system. The constitution is a key document in China's legal system and is expected to play a significant role in shaping the country's future.

## THE ARMS B

The way to stop the arms race is through dialogue and negotiation. The United Nations has been working on this for many years. The arms race is a global threat to peace and stability. It is essential that all countries work together to reduce the number of nuclear weapons and to prevent the spread of nuclear technology. The arms race is a complex issue that involves many different countries and interests. It is important to find a way to end the arms race and to create a world of peace and cooperation. The United Nations is a key organization in this effort. It has been working to bring about a nuclear ban and to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. The arms race is a serious problem that must be solved. It is the responsibility of all countries to work together to end the arms race and to create a world of peace and stability.

## SPORTS TO THE

The sports world is full of excitement and competition. Athletes from all over the world are competing for glory and prizes. The sports world is a place of hard work and dedication. Athletes train every day to become the best. They face many challenges and setbacks, but they never give up. The sports world is a place of joy and achievement. Athletes love to compete and to win. They love to push themselves to their limits and to see how far they can go. The sports world is a place of dreams and aspirations. Athletes dream of becoming champions and of making a name for themselves. The sports world is a place of hope and inspiration. Athletes inspire us to be better and to achieve our goals. The sports world is a place of love and passion. Athletes love their sport and they love to play. The sports world is a place of life and energy. Athletes bring life and energy to the world. The sports world is a place of beauty and grace. Athletes move with grace and beauty. The sports world is a place of power and strength. Athletes are strong and powerful. The sports world is a place of courage and bravery. Athletes are brave and courageous. The sports world is a place of honor and respect. Athletes are honored and respected. The sports world is a place of glory and fame. Athletes are famous and famous. The sports world is a place of joy and happiness. Athletes are happy and joyful. The sports world is a place of love and peace. Athletes are loving and peaceful. The sports world is a place of life and hope. Athletes are full of life and hope. The sports world is a place of dreams and aspirations. Athletes dream of a better future. The sports world is a place of hope and inspiration. Athletes inspire us to be better. The sports world is a place of love and passion. Athletes love their sport. The sports world is a place of life and energy. Athletes bring life and energy to the world. The sports world is a place of beauty and grace. 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The sports world is a place















## Andrew Gibbon Williams reports a confrontation in the art world of Edinburgh

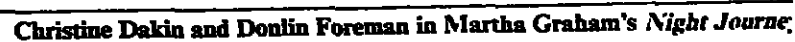
In February a group called Save Our Galleries sent the Scottish Arts Council (SAC) a petition signed by 66 per cent of the council's visual arts clients, claiming inconsistency and lack of accountability. It also accused the council of precipitating the closure of two of Scotland's leading contemporary art galleries.

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# Television gets back on the banned wagon

Not quite the whole picture: a scene from Monty Python's *The Life of Brian*, to be shown in *Banned*, Channel 4's season of censored material

A programme from the Thames documentary series *Sex in Our Time*, made in 1976, can still only be shown with cuts. The offending scene shows women at a hygiene lecture studying stills of female sex organs. British censorship has always been more bothered than other Western European countries about the display of genitalia. Perhaps secrecy, shame and

mystery are such a major erotic factor in British sexuality that we are eager to preserve them.

This could explain the particular disapproval of Jo Menell's film *Dick*, whose whole point is to demystify the sex organs by showing them in their hundreds and in all their plain humility. The result is about as erotic as the first British film that attracted censorship, the 1898 *Life of a Sillon*. (It was opposed by the

The Williams Committee was as exhaustive an examination of the evidence as anyone has done; and Bernard Williams' own report is the best philosophical survey of the subject. No visible result came of the effort: the Home Office popped the report away and forgot about it entirely. The

In simple terms we concluded that in an adult society adults should be free to choose what they see or read, subject to the provisions of the criminal law and a measure of protection for the immature and the sick. The freedom for an adult to make his own choices also implies the free-


In recent years of and secrecy have particularly to power and North land. *Banned* includes exposes of nuclear of

from Windscale to C  
The anomalies of  
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not the voices of ter  
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which Gerry Adams  
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evision of

series is still kept up and key by the BBC, refused to sell one pro "Cabinet", for *Barnes* nel 4 have remade gramme, from C:

script, using the same views. The only go about censorship is it is usually some way around it. The worry about it is that all of its nature, ultimate ends truth and liberty, comfort ignorance, and oppression. It shows the sorry position and on.

● Banned begins on Channel 4 at 9pm



**Don't Worry!**  
 The mother of  
 the boy was  
 very busy. But I  
 was there for her.



# Feminists find an erotic voice

stage version of *Fanny Hill* raises the issue of whether men's pornography leaves a lot to be desired. If so, can women do better? Geraldine Bedell reports

It sorts of reasons have been suggested for women's lack of interest in pornography. Women used to be less sexual, now they are just sexual, or less exploitative. Any of all this is the hat women are "nicer".

Ms de Angelis does not accept a distinction between pornography and erotica. "It is all material designed to make people sexually aroused," Isabel Koprowski, the managing editor of *Penthouse* and *Forum* magazines, agrees. "What women write gets called erotic; what men write is called pornography."

**'What women write gets called erotic; what men write is called pornography'**

This puts her in step with those contemporary feminists who ask whether, in objecting to male pornography, they have been attacking the wrong target.

Pandora's anthology includes such unlikely writers as Jane Austen and Elizabeth David, alongside Sappho and Anaïs Nin. Ms Reynolds acknowledges that "some extracts will appear erotic to one reader, pornographic to another, and altogether unsexy to a third".

As this implies, the only sustainable distinction between pornography and erotica is what-I-like, and what-I-don't. Thus, exactly the same images can be erotic or pornographic at different times and to different people.



More than erotic: Maria Gough as the young Fanny Hill in April de Angelis's stage version

In America Candida Royalle, a former porn star, started Femme Distribution Inc in 1984, to make erotic movies for women. The story lines are stronger than in most porn films, the production values are higher. Seven movies later, Femme's success seems to bear out Ms Koprowski's belief that women are no less averse to the explicit than men, providing the material is handled acceptably.

"I've never been crazy about pornography," Ms Carol says. "It bores me to tears; I feel excluded, and deliberately so. There may be a way forward for women to complain that there aren't enough things around to turn us on."

## & BRIEFLY

### More than just tests

DR MIRIAM Stoppard admits in the preface to *Test Your Child*, her latest book, that "the word 'test' may be emotive and to some parents worrying". And the cover of the book (published on April 11 by Dorling Kindersley, £12.99) may also be offputting to those opposed to the concept of "hothouse" children. It depicts caring, "quality time" parents intently guiding their toddlers with bricks and puzzles.

### Present tense

DESPERATE retailers are praying that the approaching peak wedding season will help lift them out of their trough. In an effort to court courting couples, Thomas Goode, the china and glass shop at 19 South Audley Street, London W1 that bears three royal warrants, is offering to credit 10 per cent of the value of all gifts purchased from its wedding lists to a Thomas Goode account in the couple's married name. This 164-year-old purveyor of tableware and monogrammed table, bed and bath linen to the gentry will store gifts up to three months after the wedding free of charge and deliver at the couple's convenience.

The Goode list also covers purchases from Kenneth Turner Flowers, Penhaligon's perfumery and gift boutique and Bentley's, which has antique leather luggage for honeymooners. Besides carrying all the best of British and continental china (including Wedgwood, Royal Crown Derby, Royal Worcester, Minton, Herend and Giori), Goode has introduced American Lenox china, as used in the Reagan White House.

### Affair of the heart or soul?

MARGARET Kent, the larger-than-life American lawyer who produced the book *How to Marry the Man of Your Choice*, has been in Britain promoting her new one, *Not With My Husband You Don't: How to Fight for Your Marriage, Your Man and Your Future* (Robson Books, £12.95). In it, Ms Kent tells you how to turn detective to flush out any secret affairs — and claims to be able to help you undermine them. Unfortunately, the final section on "reviving fidelity" is too short to hold out much hope that all the machinations recommended in the rest of the book will have been worthwhile. And what profiteth a woman if she regains her man but loses her soul?

VICTORIA MCKEE

# How to bend the rules on gender

persuading doctors to divulge the sex of your baby after ultrasound scans is tricky, but there are ways of avoiding the hunt for neutral-coloured babywear

Ms Koenig is the London Frenchwoman reputed to be considering suing hospital for allegedly failing to reveal the sex of her child. Unlike Ms Koenig, who already has two children, Ms Koenig is about to have her third child. Her husband, a spokesman for the hospital, says that the sex of the child was revealed by ultrasound scan. But Ms Koenig's consultant was to point out my baby's sex, she says.

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with a swollen vulva only after the nursery was painted blue. I persuaded my GP to write a letter to my radiographer, saying I wished to know the sex of my child if possible. (It depends on how the fetus is lying.) Despite the letter, plus the persuasive presence of my husband, the radiographer was not keen to reveal the sex and possibly did so only because we already have a girl and a boy.

We wanted to know for practical reasons. No longer did we have to shop for neutral-coloured babywear. Giving him a name had also made him into a real person. Every evening my daughter asks: "What did Giles eat in your tummy today?"

But how can other mothers find out what they are expecting? Some antenatal clinics have a blanket policy of not telling under any circumstances. Professor Strratt's unit "doesn't like telling mothers but can be persuaded according to circumstance". His advice is to talk to the hospital consultant at the first antenatal appointment so the

scan operator knows in advance. "I try to judge what is appropriate in individual cases," he says. "I might be worried about telling a mother of four boys that she was having another son. But if I feel a woman can come to terms with a diagnosis, I might accommodate her. I've also come across husbands who want to know and wives who don't, and I respected her wishes."

He denies, however, that fewer tests are being carried out in case of disappointment. "If there's a strong medical reason, we will go ahead." The question becomes even more delicate in racial terms because certain cultures have been suspected of aborting girls. Sheila Kitzinger, the author of several books on childbirth, says most "middle class mothers are probably asking if they want to know the sex after amniocentesis or chorion villus sampling. But I wonder whether this is the case in inner city areas. I suspect that doctors make moral judgments about us, based on hunches."

Ms Kitzinger advises mothers undergoing ultrasound to ask their GPs for a written note for the radiographer. However, she says it is also wise to talk to the hospital consultant. Women who are screened late in pregnancy might also be lucky; scan operators seem happier about revealing all after 35 weeks.

The old wives' tale that says, "You know what you want but you want what you get", may be true, but if Giles does turn out to be Pandora, neither of us will live it down.

JANE BIDDER  
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## BBC 1

6.30 BBC Breakfast News

8.30 Why Don't You? Ideas for

and youngsters

9.00 News and weather 10.05 Playdays (r) 10.25 The

family News, cartoon (r) 10.35 The Jokers. Cartoon adventures

and weather 11.05 Kick Start. Junior

photographers compete for the Autoglass Trophy 11.30 East for

news, regional news and weather 12.05 Happy Memories. Cliff

Richardson and Wendy Gibson invite viewers to recall their

youthful memories 12.30 Scare Today. Live entertainment and

news from the Pebble Mill foyer 12.55 Regional News and

Weather

1.00 O'Clock News and weather

1.30 The Crystal Ball. Repeat showing of a 40 Minutes

documentary about astrologers and the growing number of people

who use them for personal and business advice (r)

1.55 and Jerry 3.50 WildBrain. Violet Berlin and vet Mark Evans

present a new series of natural history programmes for children

2.05 Lullaby. Cartoon about a boy in an enchanted forest 4.30

Michael McIntyre's 15 Minute Movie. Jonathan Morris and David

Sutton present a series of short films for children 4.55 The

Sweeney. A comedy-drama series starring Michael Sweeney and

Shirley Bassey. Sweeney and Bassey are sent to make

an abandoned mine which promptly collapses on them.

Clown von Bismarck. A comedy-drama series starring Michael

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## BBC 2

8.15 Holiday Outings. Lucy Pilkington reports from the Mark Phillips

Equitation Centre at the Gloucestershire and Stroud Racecourse

8.20 Pigeons - Our Foes. A pest or a vastly underestimated? Pigeon

fanciers have their say (r)

9.00 Film: A Date With the Falcon (1941, b/w). George Sanders stars in

the title role helping the police to track down a kidnapped scientist.

He becomes involved with the glamorous Rita (Mona Maris) before

being himself kidnapped and accused of murder. With Wendy

Barrie and James Gleason. Directed by Irving Reis

10.00 Film: Abbott and Costello Meet the Inky (1955, b/w). This

adventure finds Bud and Lou as tourists stranded in Egypt who

join an expedition searching for a secret medication. Directed by

Charles Lamont

11.20 From Rogues to Riches (b/w). An RKO comedy short (r)

11.35 The Honeymonsters (b/w). Classic Fifties American sitcom

12.00 After Hours. Cheers star Ted Danson is the guest

12.20 The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures. Professor Malcolm

Longest looks at how particle physics may help explain the

evolution of the universe (1.20 P in the Sky) (r)

1.35 Country File. Sheila Young reports on legislation pertaining to

sales for gypsy travellers (r)

2.00 News and weather followed by Muggerside: Ancient and

Modern. Continuing Malcolm Muggerside's life story (r)

3.00 News and weather followed by Four Days in Summer. A look at

the Falkland Islands. The world's most dangerous horse race (r) 3.50

News, regional news and weather

4.00 Call My Bluff. Robert Robinson hosts this witty word quiz (r)

4.30 Plunder. Former managing director of the BBC Sir Cotton selects

his favourite television clips from the archives

5.00 News followed by Holiday Outings. Kathy Taylor reports on a 14-

day holiday package in North America that includes a train journey

through the Canadian Rockies and into Alaska

5.10 Horizon: Smokers Can Harm Your Health. A repeat of the

documentary on the controversy about passive smoking. (Ceefax)

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. Further space adventures

with the new crew of the starship Enterprise. Counselor Deanna

Troi (Persia Fala) goes on an extraordinary mission that grows

eight years in one day. Academy Award-winning actress Whoopi

Goldberg guest stars (Ceefax)

6.50 DEF. It begins with Reportage. More current affairs five from

Manchester. The theme is "crime and punishment" and there are

reports on how joy-riders have been retraining and repairing cars

as punishment and how young drink-drivers are taken to the

local morgue to see the results of their actions 7.40 Rapido

presented by Antonio de Caunes. With Zippy Marley, Lenny

Krawitz, David Halliday and saxophonist Branford Marsalis. There

are also retrospectives on Elvis Presley and Joni Mitchell

8.10 Bookmark.

9.00 M\*A\*S\*H. The war-torn medics are delighted to receive a letter

from Radar (r)

9.25 For the Greater Good. Final episode of G.F. Newman's

disastrous political drama set in Britain in the near future. Home

secretary Charles Truman (Roy Dotrice) faces the threat of

growing lawlessness and a breakdown in civil order. His attempts

to deal with the situation merely alienate him still further from his

colleagues, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel - the

deputy Prime Minister's teenage niece (Jodhi May) seems willing

to help. (Ceefax)

10.30 Newsnight presented by Jeremy Paxman

11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine 11.55 Weather

## ITV

8.00 TV-am

9.25 Lucky Ladders. Word quiz hosted by Lennie Bennett 9.55

Thames News and weather

10.00 Out of This World. American drama series about a teenage girl

with a father who happens to be an alien

10.30 This Morning. Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan present the

family magazine programme (r)

12.10 Allsorts. For the young (r)

12.30 News with John Suchet. Weather 1.10 Thames News and

weather

1.20 Home and Away. Australian soap 1.50 A Country Practice

Drama series set in an Australian rural community health centre

2.20 Take the High Road. Scottish soap set in the Highlands 2.50

Jumble. Jeff Stevenson asks the questions in the cryptic cartoon

quiz with celebrity contestants

3.15 ITN News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The

Young Doctors. Australian medical drama charting the lives of

staff and patients at a large city hospital

3.55 Bugs Bunny and Friends (r) 4.10 World Comedy about a boy who

periodically turns into a dog (r) (Oracle) 4.40 Garfield and

Friends. Cartoon fun with the comic cat

5.10 Blockbusters. Bob Holness hosts the quiz for teenagers

5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong (Oracle) Weather

5.55 Thames Help. Jackie Sprockley with more instances of children

who have developed a fear of school

6.00 Home and Away (r)

6.30 Thames News and weather

7.00 This Is Your Life. Michael Aspel opens the Red Book that

chronicles the life of another worthy

7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle)

8.00 Film: The Goonies (1985) Josh Brolin, Corey Feldman and Sean

Astin star in a junior variation on the Indiana Jones story from the

Steven Spielberg stable, featuring a group of children who

discover a secret treasure map and follow it into a bizarre world of

underground caves. Sentimental and hammy performances mar

an otherwise enjoyable escapade. Firmly aimed at younger

viewers. Directed by Richard Donner

10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Julia Somerville (Oracle)

Weather 10.30 Thames News and weather

10.40 Midweek Sports Special. Nick Owen introduces boxing from

Birmingham featuring Nigel Benn against America's Robby Sims

and highlights of first division football. Plus the Greyhound Grand

National from Hall Green, Birmingham

12.15am Film: The Loves of a Woman (1984) Nastassja Kinski, Robert Mitchum

and Katharine Hepburn star in an impressive tale of soldiers returning

from the second world war to rural Pennsylvania where nothing is

quite the same. John Savage stars as Ivan Bosch, a Slav soldier

whose image of the innocent girlfriend left behind is impossible

to reconcile with the woman he confronts on his return. Maria

Jelenc (Kinski) has had several lovers and the reunion is not easy

for either party. There are stirring performances from the principals

not least Mitchum, while the American heartlands were never

filmed so beautifully. Directed by Andre Konchalovsky

2.15 Videoflash. A look at fashionable footwear

2.40 America's Top Ten presented by Tommy Puett and Casey Casem

2.55 Night. Martin Roberts hosts the pub and club quiz show

3.10 The Quiz. Corrieanna Ross hosts the pub and club quiz show

3.40 Stephen King's World. Horror stories featuring clips from

classic horror films and interviews with the stars

4.10 Soccer in the 70s. Gary Lineker chews the cud with football stars

of the Seventies. Former Brighton boss Alan Mullery joins

Bournemouth manager Harry Redknapp and John Bond to discuss

the 1971-72 season

4.40 Fifty Years On. A look back to the events of April 1941 as reported

by the newsmen of the day

5.00 Shakespeare Swings. The best of country music. With special guest

Ron McLeod (Ceefax)

5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Neilson. Ends at 6.00

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6.00 IT



# Labour tries to banish Major's friendly face

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour party leadership set out to puncture John Major's "nice guy" image last night by unleashing its strongest personal criticism of him.

Roy Hattersley denounced the prime minister as a man without principles or political integrity and cast doubt on his intellectual abilities as part of a co-ordinated leadership attempt to keep the government and Mr Major on the defensive during the Easter recess.

The decision to intensify the personal attacks reflects the view of Labour strategists that Mr Major's "ordinary" image can and must be dismantled. Behind it is also their belief that Mr Major does not react well to personal criticism, as shown by his responses in interviews to questions about his educational attainments.

John Cunningham, the campaigns co-ordinator, will try to keep up the pressure tomorrow with a speech looking towards the May council polls and maintaining the speculation about a June election. Labour hopes to reap maximum advantage if Mr Major decides against an early election. He would then be accused of lacking the courage to go to the country.

Mr Hattersley's criticism, at a rally in Neath, which Labour defends in a by-election tomorrow, labelled the personal invective Labour used to hurl at Margaret Thatcher. But strategists believe it to be fully justified, in view of the "fitness to govern" attacks promised by the Conservatives against Neil Kinnock.

Mr Hattersley said Mr Major "does not possess an iota of political conviction. The prime minister dithers because he has no foundation of principle on which to build

his policies. The evidence allows no other explanation of the way in which he swings in the political wind."

Mr Hattersley said the prime minister's speeches showed he was unable to remain constant to any principle, and incapable of maintaining any steady conviction. Mr Major had changed his mind on mortgage relief, the married couple's tax allowance, and the poll tax. "His views altered when to hold true to old beliefs was to increase the size of the Tory defeat."

Mr Hattersley's most personal jibe was about Mr Major's intellectual powers. He said: "I do not accuse John Major of having a secret agenda. That is far too intellectually exacting a sort of deceit for him to organise. I accuse him of having no agenda at all. He will do what seems easy, popular and convenient at the moment."

● An opinion poll by NOP for HTV Wales put Labour on 65 per cent in the Neath contest, with Plaid Cymru on 13 per cent and the Conservatives on 9 per cent.



At the gallop: troopers of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment in Hyde Park yesterday giving their first display of the Musical Ride this year. The feat of equestrianism was performed by 16 mounted troopers, one drummer and four trumpeters, all in full dress uniform, with four mounted soldiers wearing stable dress of the 18th century.

## Shoppers chase runaway prices

Continued from page 1

on and off ration. Soviet-produced cigarettes, like vodka, have not risen in price, but remain rationed.

How much work was done by the women of Sverdlovsk yesterday is open to question. Many husbands had handed over all their spare roubles to their wives, who were intent on foraging for goods which had been supposedly held back in the depots to await the re-pricing. Some people struck lucky.

The city's main department store, an ugly concrete structure approached through a sea of icy mud, had released a consignment of bed linen, something not seen in Sverdlovsk for many months. There were two designs of men's shirts, another scarce item, and thousands of video and audio cassettes on almost every shelf to displace the otherwise prevailing emptiness.

Nobody was interested in

the cassettes, but the queues for bed linen and shirts wound round and round the wide stone staircase. Indeed, the queues for goods, even at the doubled and trebled prices, suggested that the rises had been nowhere steep enough.

This department store was one of the few to have finished its re-pricing overnight. Elsewhere, most non-food departments were closed for stock-taking, leaving the customers guessing what tomorrow might bring. It is small wonder that the process took so long. Every council trading official and every shop had been supplied with instructions running into several volumes about how to apply the new prices, with each commodity classified in the manner of the old five-year plans.

With food it was easier. First, because there is so little of it, second because most of it is strictly rationed and so already carefully recorded. This may be one reason the

shock of the price rises was not so great, even in poorly supplied Sverdlovsk, as some had predicted. People have for some time been unable to spend as many roubles as they have or to satisfy their food requirements at state prices and have found other, more expensive, means of survival.

Helped by bright sunshine and a clear sky, the mood in Sverdlovsk was nowhere near as grim as it might have been. The crunch is now expected to come in about three weeks when people realise that the big improvement in supplies had been hoped for has not materialised and when, because of the price increases, they start to run out of money. Russian industrial workers, with above average wages and bonuses, have not been used to budgeting. If something appears in the shops, they buy it, in great quantities, without a second thought. Nobody dared to predict rises before the price rises came

into effect how the alternative markets, the peasant market and the black market, would respond. Yesterday, they had still not decided. The co-operative food shops had put up their prices, but by less than state shops, and they had more to sell.

In "little Poland", a ramshackle collection of stalls in a central street, traders in everything from fur hats to fresh fish said their prices were the same as the previous day, but would have to go up eventually.

At the peasant market selling the only fruit, vegetables and meat in town, the prices had also remained steady. Trading officials forecast, however, that if state supplies did not improve and the market kept its monopoly, the prices would rise. "After all," one peasant woman with a mouth of gold teeth cackled, "we will need to be compensated for the state price rises, too."

## £5m cost of gas blunder

By ELAINE FOGG

A BLUNDER caused when workmen connected a high-pressure gas supply to the low-pressure domestic mains at Royston, Hertfordshire, cost £5 million and could have proved fatal, it was disclosed yesterday.

British Gas confirmed its engineers connected the supply that left the town without gas for a month and led to four house fires, explosions and domestic mayhem. Gas cookers exploded, a school boiler caught fire, meters and gas lines burst and dozens of minor small fires broke out on March 8.

Royston's 15,000 residents, some of whom are still without gas, are demanding a public enquiry into the incident. British Gas said it expected to restore all supplies by tomorrow.

## UK denies deal to free Cooper

Continued from page 1

flicking plumstones across his cell into a receptacle.

Mr Cooper has lived in Iran, on and off, since 1958. He was arrested in 1985 for overstaying his visa and was later convicted of spying. Why he? He suspects the spy mania in Iran. "I think I do match the profile, as seen from Tehran, of an English spy. The Iranians, unfortunately, do have a paranoia, not entirely unjustified, that the British and other Western nations, particularly the Americans, are out to spy on them. Perhaps I fitted the bill."

Mr Cooper cautioned against being too optimistic about the imminent release of British hostages in Lebanon, but then raised hopes himself. "I was given the semi-assurance, that another hostage, not British, will go free soon."

Mr Cooper's face darkened as he recalled nastier moments

of his captivity. "I bitter towards some. Some who flashed me interrogators. Some who made a confession. 'That was staged. There were things that were mine, or that I adapted their requests. I let heart.'"

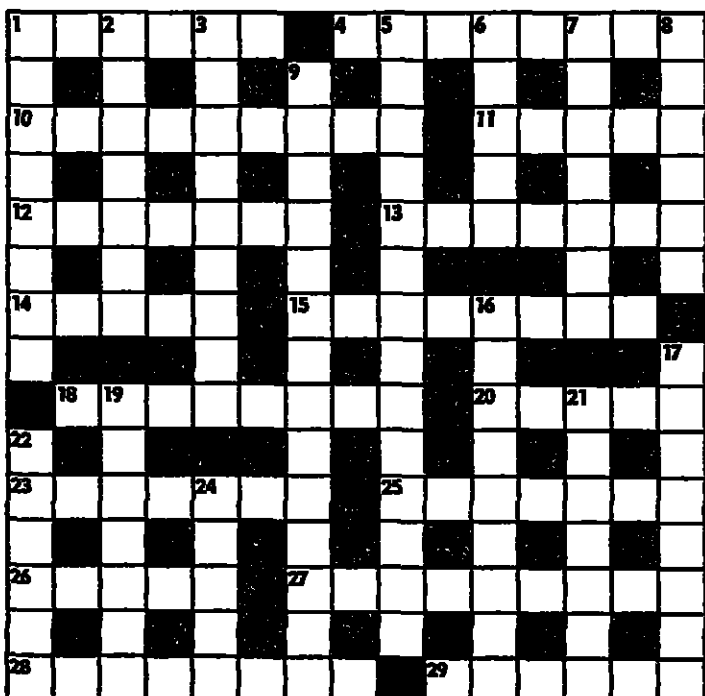
Nevertheless, guards no bitterness the Iranian people at he married an Iranian they are now divorced would like to return.

His immediate thought, were to visit in Oxfordshire with being with his far was still tingling with the men as she gave one last kiss for the rappers. "I still don't," she said. Paul then swept his broil his new life. "We're let him relax. I don't is ready for a party."



Hattersley: fierce attack on the prime minister

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,570



ACROSS  
1 Good heavens, what little bits! (6)  
6 Sixth allows a detente to collapse (8)  
10 Following the exact words left it really confused (9)  
11 Due to succeed in return (5)  
12 One State cricketer to emulate (7)  
13 Putting Heather on a charge causes a sensation (7)  
14 Bicycled round the cattle enclosure (5)  
15 U.S. doctors tell how to take it one at a time (8)  
16 Everything turns green in reaction to this (8)  
20 It's a gift the French look for in an actor (5)  
23 Framework of vehicle has protective covering (7)  
25 Walking stick disowned by Penang lawyer (7)

DOWN  
1 The dog on the line is mine (8)  
2 Incorporated, like those on remand (7)  
3 Song from *The Gondoliers* (9)  
5 One daff note may ruin Yom Kippur (3,2,9)  
6 Stand up in honour of a weeping woman (5)  
7 It's foolish when the ace takes a card below ten (7)  
8 Commission book (6)  
9 She couldn't be roused by Peg and Aunt Elsie, unfortunately (8,6)  
16 Professional soldier about to become Governor (9)  
17 Compensated for drawback in the plant (8)  
19 What Satan begins with, say - gifts? (7)  
21 Purchase a curer - sound form of transport (7)  
22 Current line of agreement (6)  
24 Article left out of year-book creates void (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 18,570

SEDUCTRESS OFFRA  
OPTIMISING BELT  
WSPITDHLER  
CPTOTIFORER  
CPTOTIFORER  
AARSWONASTIA  
AARSWONASTIA  
SHELA SHIROARD  
THLCLRLD  
GRANTCISTER  
UNMAHAAOP  
AIDE UNWONABLE  
REOREE  
DIDO PENNYROYAL

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

CATACHRESIS  
a. Misuse of words  
b. Roofing over  
c. An early Christmas Jewish convert

FECULENCE  
a. Foolishness  
b. Filthy sediment  
c. Having no money

EXORABLE  
a. Disagreeable  
b. Persuadable  
c. First self by date

MAINDER  
a. To zig-zag  
b. Drivel, incoherent talk  
c. To talk while weeping

Answers on page 18, column 1

For the latest AA traffic and roadwork information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

LONDON & SE (N & S Circs.) 731  
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732  
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford 733  
M-ways/roads Dartford-T-M23 734  
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735  
M25 London Orbital only 736

National  
National motorways 737  
West Country 738  
Wales 739  
Midlands 740  
East Angles 741  
North-west England 742  
North-east England 743  
Scotland 744  
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

Concise crossword page 15

There will be a rather cloudy start to the day in Kent and Essex, but this will soon clear, and most of Britain will have a bright morning. Showers will break out over Scotland, being heavy at times, with thunder, and extending south as the morning goes on. Later, the showers will become confined to northern and western areas. It will be generally breezy, and cooler than of late. Outlook: mostly cloudy with rain at times.

MEDLEY: b-thunder; d-drizzle; f-fog; g-gale; h-hail; i-ice; j-jet; k-kill; l-light; m-mist; n-nor; o-oil; p-poll; q-quake; r-rain; s-snow; t-thunder; u-umbrella; v-volcano; w-wind; x-x-ray; y-yield; z-zig-zag

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fog; i, ice; j, jet; k, kill; l, light; m, mist; n, nor; o, oil; p, poll; q, quake; r, rain; s, snow; t, thunder; u, umbrella; v, volcano; w, wind; x, x-ray; y, yield; z, zig-zag

Monday: Highest day temp: Aberdeen, 17C (59F); lowest day temp: London, 10C (50F); highest night temp: Glasgow, 6C (43F); lowest night temp: London, 4C (39F)

These are Monday's figures

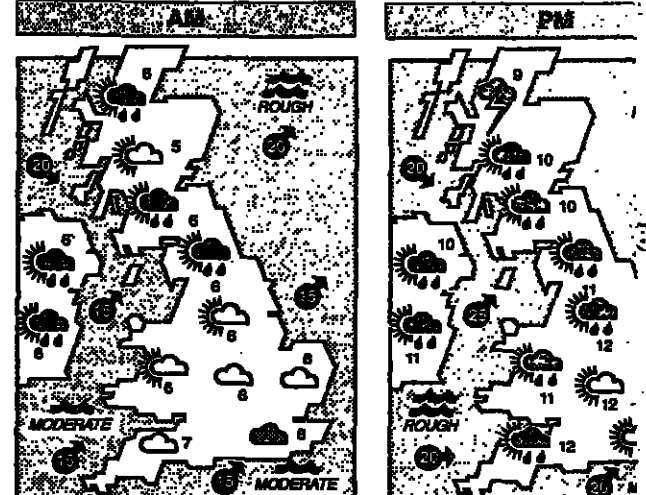
For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0896 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London 701  
Kent, Surrey, Sussex 702  
Dorset, Devon & Cornwall 703  
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset 704  
Berkshire, Oxfordshire 705  
Bucks, Herts & Essex 706  
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs 707  
West Mid & Stn Glam & Gwent 708  
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcs 709  
Central Midlands 710  
Lincolnshire 711  
Lincoln & Humberside 712  
Dyfed & Powys 713  
Gwynedd & Clwyd 714  
N W England 715  
W & S Yorks & Dales 716  
N E England 717  
Cumbria & Lake District 718  
S W Scotland 719  
N W Scotland 720  
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders 721  
E Central Scotland 722  
Glasgow & E Highlands 723  
W Central Scotland 724  
Glasgow, Orkney & Shetland 725  
N Ireland 726

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 11C (52F); min 6pm to 6am, 6C (43F); Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.44 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 6.4 in.

Weatherall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.



Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fog; i, ice; j, jet; k, kill; l, light; m, mist; n, nor; o, oil; p, poll; q, quake; r, rain; s, snow; t, thunder; u, umbrella; v, volcano; w, wind; x, x-ray; y, yield; z, zig-zag

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Berkshire, Oxfordshire 705  
Bucks, Herts & Essex 706  
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs 707  
West Mid & Stn Glam & Gwent 708  
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcs 709  
Central Midlands 710  
Lincolnshire 711  
Lincoln & Humberside 712  
Dyfed & Powys 713  
Gwynedd & Clwyd 714  
N W England 715  
W & S Yorks & Dales 716  
N E England 717  
Cumbria & Lake District 718  
S W Scotland 719  
N W Scotland 720  
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders 721  
E Central Scotland 722  
Glasgow & E Highlands 723  
W Central Scotland 724  
Glasgow, Orkney & Shetland 725  
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Information supplied by Met Office

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MEDIA 29  
RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY 31  
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY 33  
SPORT 34-38

# BUSINESS

Deputy Business Editor  
Robert Ballantyne

WEDNESDAY APRIL 3 1991

## Germans acquire Camford for £54m

ARKHEATH Securities, a property company that is 50 per cent owned by Adelphi Investments, is selling Camford, a German engineering company, for £54 million in cash.

The sale takes place less than a year after Camford, the former components group which employs 2,300 people, was acquired for £70 million in a contested takeover.

Arkheath is retaining property formerly owned by Camford valued at £22 million, which leaves a nominal profit before costs of £6 million. Markheath acknowledged that the decision to sell Camford took into account the company's deteriorating financial condition.

Last week, Arkheath reported net losses of £1.28 million (£564 million) for the year ended December, one of the biggest losses in its corporate history.

Arkheath's chairman, John Spall, is also Camford's chairman, said the sale would reduce the company's losses to £300,000 from an estimated 100 per cent at the end and allow it to concentrate on property investment and development.

Mr Creber, executive director of Arkheath UK, said: "The sale was under intense pressure from its bankers to ensure the company's survival."

Arkheath is a subsidiary of the automotive industry in Germany and it followed the company's lead in the UK. "We should do the same in Germany," he said.

Tempus, page 23

## National Power faces £40m pricing claim

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT miners in South Wales are finalising details of a compensation claim for up to £40 million alleging discriminatory pricing by National Power.

Although the claim is being vigorously contested by the newly privatised generating company, 70 members of the South Wales Small Mines Association (SWSMA) have become parties to the action and have agreed to underwrite the costs.

According to National Power's privatisation prospectus, provisions and insurance policies are adequate to meet any compensation, should the company's defence fail.

A writ against National Power issued by SWSMA has been in existence for more than a year. However, the miners appear to have taken encouragement from their success in winning a large increase in the price paid for their coal out of National Power and British Coal at the end of last year.

The increase was backdated to April 1990, when National Power and PowerGen, its smaller rival, agreed a three year contract to buy coal from British Coal Corporation, the state coal company that dominates mining in Britain.

Britain's independent miners, who produce more than 2 million tonnes of coal a year, had won the backing of the European Competition Directorate for a liberalisation of the United Kingdom coal industry. The competition directorate also gave its seal of approval to the prices eventually agreed between the independent mines and their main customers.

The SWSMA has retained Putnam Hayes and Bartlett, an international firm of economic and management consultants, to prepare evidence for its claim.

The writ alleges discrimination against independent miners by the Central Electricity Generating Board in purchases of coal for the Aberthaw and Ebbw Vale power stations in South Wales, which are now operated by National Power. The discrimination is alleged to have been practised between 1984 and 1990, and to have been contrary to article 86 of the Treaty of Rome. The writ also seeks interest on alleged underpayments for coal, and legal costs of the action.

PowerGen, British Coal, and Scottish Power also face compensation claims from independent miners. Each is believed to have provisions in its accounts to cover any payments.

Many of the miners who are party to the SWSMA action operate very small drift mines employing just a handful of people. But some are substantial enterprises. One company is seeking £3.3 million.

Rhys Jeffreys, chairman of the SWSMA, said the agreement between the claimants to underwrite the cost of the court action marked a watershed for the miners. "There is now no question of the action failing through lack of finance. Together, we have got the financial muscle to take on National Power."

Mr Jeffreys said the SWSMA members were now "fairly confident" they would receive some compensation.

A note in the National Power prospectus warned that National Power, PowerGen and British Coal had each received a writ from a member of the National Association of Licensed Open Cast Operators (Naloo) concerning alleged breaches of European Community Law arising from the CEBG's past coal purchasing arrangements.

National Power had been told that a number of other members of Naloo, and of the Small Mines Federation of Great Britain proposed to initiate similar claims.

The prospectus said the claims would be "vigorously contested" by National Power. The outcome was unlikely to be known "for a considerable period".

The prospectus concluded: "The directors are of the opinion, having regard to legal advice received, the group's insurance arrangements and provisions held, as appropriate, that it is unlikely that the matters... will... have a material effect on the group's financial position."



Window of opportunity: Sir George Turnbull at his London office yesterday after announcing the figures

## Inchcape profits held at £174m

By MICHAEL TATE  
CITY EDITOR

TOYOTA'S success in raising its United Kingdom sales last year, against a background of plunging car sales, helped Inchcape, the international marketing and services group, peg its 1990 pre-tax profits at £174 million.

Motor distribution accounts for 48.1 per cent of Inchcape's profits, and Sir George Turnbull, group chairman and chief executive, said worldwide the group sold 220,000 vehicles, 10 per cent more than the previous year.

Toyota, the group's main United Kingdom distributorship, lifted its market share above 2 per cent, recording rises in both sales and profits, but the Mann Egerton business suffered.

Overseas, motor sales rose in the Far East, Southeast Asia and continental Europe, and total motor activity profits were £105.9 million (£104.4 million). Sir George said pre-tax profits would have been £8 million higher, but for sterling's strength.

Earnings per share fell from 27.6p to 26.1p, but the board is lifting the final dividend from 6.5p to 7p a share, making 11p for the year, an increase of 7.3 per cent. The shares rose 13p to 319p.

## Market optimism sends shares on 50-point surge

By MICHAEL CLARK AND GEORGE SIVELL

LONDON share prices staged a near 50-point turnaround as City experts continued to take an optimistic view of prospects for the equity market now that the recession is showing signs of being close to a trough.

By the close, the FT-SE 100 was within 13 points of its all time high of 2,500.6, struck on March 14, with a net rise yesterday of 31.8 points to 2,488.3.

Share prices made a cautious start to the new two week trading account overshadowed by worries about a rise in German interest rates, and gloomy interpretations of the latest CBI monthly survey, which shows that business confidence remains fragile.

Hesitancy was eventually brushed aside as the FT-SE 100 reacted to an early rise in New York. At 12.15pm in New York, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 26.98 at 2,908.7.

The activity on Wall Street coincided with one leading American securities house conducting a £100 million-plus buy programme among leading British equities.

By the close of business in London, 547 million shares had changed hands, but delays in booking bargains means that the stock involved in the programme trade was not reflected in the final figure.

Warburg Securities, one of London's leading securities houses, helped fuel the rally by taking an optimistic view of the British equity market. It was a big buyer of the June FT-SE 100 index series, paying prices up to around the 2,532 level. Dealers said this meant Warburg expected the index to hang on to recent gains and even make further headway.

The dollar, whose strength has been causing concern recently, fell to close at DM1.6840 from DM1.7180, ahead of a Bundesbank council meeting tomorrow, which some analysts say, could usher in a half-point rise in German discount rates to 7 per cent.

The pound benefited from the weaker dollar, and its trade weighted index rose 0.3 points to 92.7, helped by a 2.45 cent rise to \$1.7600 and a 0.15 pence rise to DM12.9732.

The dollar was largely unmoved by news that American factory goods orders had fallen by a bigger than expected 1.5 per cent. The market had anticipated a 0.3 per cent decline. Economists are now looking ahead to Friday's job statistics, which could again lead to a lowering of American interest rates.

Orders received by American factories fell for the fourth consecutive month in February, according to the Commerce Department.

The Bush administration maintains that the recession will be relatively short and mild, and that solid growth will resume in the second half of this year. A survey by the National Association of Purchasing Management, published on Monday, showed that despite a slight rise, the economy was still in recession during March.

Comment, page 23  
Markets, page 25

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## reunited post

...Treasury privatisation cy said it has not yet ided on a successor to lev Rohwedder, its chief cutive who was assas- ated on Monday. Bonn als said it was important ed a replacement as soon ssible but that it was too y to name names.

...money in collapse, page 23

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## Sotheby's issues warning

By COLIN CAMPBELL

SOTHEBY'S Holdings, the auction house controlled from America, says that first-half auction sales this year will compare poorly with last year's depressed second half, and that the recession in the art market could last a while.

Michael Ainslie, chief executive, is, however, optimistic about the second half of this year, now the Gulf war has ended and there are signs of economic recovery.

Sotheby's results for the year ended December, following a lower fourth quarter, show that total 1990 auction sales slipped from \$2.95 billion to \$2.45 billion, and that pre-tax profits eased from (\$187.9 million) to \$154.6 million.

Net earnings were \$1.66 a share compared with \$1.96 a share previously, out of which dividends totalling 95 cents a share were declared.

Mr Ainslie said, however, that 1990 was still the second most profitable year in Sotheby's history, and the year's results should be seen in context against a record 1989.

The group had already trimmed staff numbers, frozen salaries worldwide, and had consolidated catalogues. The group's real estate operations remained profitable, and revenues from Sotheby's financial services operations increased by 23 per cent to \$23.1 million (\$18.8 million).

Of a total 50 million shares issued, Mr Ainslie said 17 million were in public hands, and of those 40 per cent were originally held on the London register. But London interest

had tailed off in recent years, and Sotheby's was now keen to raise its investment profile in Britain and on the Continent.

Mr Ainslie said the second-half downturn stemmed from smaller impressionist and contemporary auctions.

"More moderate price levels have brought many collectors back to the impressionist and contemporary markets, and other collecting categories continue to be strong," he said.

In 1991, Sotheby's plans the continued development of new markets in Asia and Eastern Europe, and in May will be holding its first auction of 20th Century German art in its new Berlin office.

Tempus, page 23

Tempus, page 23

## Tesco wins £74m cheap EC loan

By JONATHAN PRYNN

TESCO, which today is expected to announce pre-tax profits of near £420 million, has been granted a £74 million loan by the European Commission to fund eight supermarket developments in areas of high unemployment.

The loan, applied for last summer, is for five years at a variable sub-Libor rate. Rowley Ager, the company secretary, said: "We couldn't get anything else to touch it."

The loan is from a fund earmarked for investment in towns hit by the decline in European steel and coal industries.

"It doesn't discriminate on the basis of the profitability of the applicants," Mr Ager said.

Five of the stores have already been opened - at Ayr, Baguley, Greater Manchester, Bidston Moss, Wirral; Formby, Woodmarsh, Merseyside; and Hartlepool. The other three stores are still under construction and are at New Ossett and Dudley in the West Midlands and at Bridgend in South Wales. New offices in Cardiff are also covered by the loan. The investment is expected to create 2,469 jobs.

Tesco has already applied for another EC loan of about the same size to cover another eight stores in similar areas.

Comment, page 23

## Mercury to cut inland charges

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY Communications is to cut its inland call charges by an average of 3.5 per cent in response to price reductions by British Telecom that took effect yesterday.

Mercury's price cuts, from April 22, are sure to be followed by cuts in its international charges. BT was ordered to cut its overseas tariffs by 10 per cent from June 10 as a result of the review of the duopoly.

A spokesman for Mercury said emerging economies of scale would prevent damage to its profits. Mercury, part of Cable and Wireless, made a trading profit of £49 million in the year to last month. BT's price cuts will be partly balanced by the introduction yesterday of charges for directory inquiries, and part of the benefit of cheaper charges by both companies will be eroded by the increase in VAT to 17 1/2 per cent, levied on telephone calls with effect from April 1.

Before the price changes, Mercury's charges for residential customers were 22 per cent cheaper than those of BT. The gap will narrow to 19 per cent. For business customers who use long distance lines, the saving on BT rates will fall from 14 1/2 to 11 per cent, or from 15 to 12 per cent, depending on whether links are direct or via BT lines.

## United flies to friendly UK skies

By MATTHEW BOND

UNITED Airlines' jumbo jets will not now spend tomorrow morning stacked in indefinite holding patterns above London's Heathrow airport. A last-minute compromise deal by the Heathrow authorities has finally given United - motto "fly the friendly skies" - the go-ahead to land.

The deal brings to a close, at least temporarily, a five-month regulatory transatlantic battle over which airline can fly from which airport, and heralds a new era of competition at Heathrow. British Airways has already said that this invasion of its home territory by a new generation of American airlines will inevitably lead to lower profits.

The agreement means that the deal that sparked the dispute - United Airlines' \$290 million purchase of 237 take-

off and landing slots at Heathrow previously used, and arguably owned, by Pan Am - can now go ahead. The compromise reached by the Heathrow scheduling committee also means that within a few weeks Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic will be operating a full service to New York, Los Angeles and Tokyo.

This new era of competition begins early tomorrow when a United jumbo from Washington is scheduled to land. On board will be Stephen Wolf, United chairman, who intends to celebrate United's arrival at Heathrow with a small dinner party at Claridge's in the evening. Lord King, chairman of British Airways, is apparently not on the guest list, although United says this omission is not intended as a snub.

Within 90 minutes, the Washington flight, due to arrive at 7.40 am, will be

joined by three others from New York, San Francisco and - following Monday's approval by the American transport authorities - Miami. A spokesman for United described all four flights as "pretty much full".

Only a week ago, Virgin threatened legal action to block the new transatlantic agreement, thrashed out by the American and British transport departments. That threat was lifted yesterday after the scheduling committee increased the number of Heathrow slots awarded to Virgin from 28 to more than 40.

Mr Branson said he was happy with the compromise for now, but added that he would continue his campaign for a new system of allocating slots at Heathrow. "We made it clear that we would fight any attempt to treat this as a precedent," Mr Branson said.

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## Referral cost leasing firm £4m

By JONATHAN PRYNN

PETER Lilley's decision to refer to the monopolies commission the 45 per cent share stake taken by Credit Lyonnais in Woodchester Investments cost the Irish leasing company £4.5 million in lost interest last year.

Craig McKinney, the chairman of Woodchester Investments, which yesterday announced its 1990 figures, described the decision as "most unfortunate". Mr Lilley, the trade secretary, referred the stake against the advice of the Office of Fair Trading, but in January, the MMC recommended that the shareholding "did not act against the UK public interest". The referral meant an expected £591 million cash injection from Credit Lyonnais was delayed for five months.

Mr McKinney said that in addition to the interest and advisory costs involved, the referral "consumed an inordinate amount of management time and it temporarily delayed the group's European expansion plans".

Woodchester is hoping to take a 30 to 40 per cent stake in Sibill International, the holding company for Credit Lyonnais' European leasing activities. The link would give Woodchester access to ten countries in continental Europe.

Woodchester's pre-tax profits for the year to end-December were up 12 per cent to £29.6 million on gross rentals of £324.3 million, a 20 per cent advance. A final dividend of 1.865p (1.5p) makes 3.125p for the year, against 2.5p, up 25 per cent.

The advances were made almost entirely through organic growth of the company's operations, as the year's only acquisition, that of Mercantile Credit Company of Ireland, was completed in the last weeks of 1990.

Deposits with the group's Irish operations increased from £89 million to £181 million in 1990, when the company became a net lender in the Irish interbank market for the first time.

## ADT faces legal battle with Laidlaw over shares

By MARTIN BARROW

ADT, the security and car auctions group, is set for a legal battle with Laidlaw, its 28.4 per cent Canadian shareholder, after the adjournment of a special meeting called by ADT to obtain extended powers to issue new shares.

Laidlaw, which has interests in waste disposal and school bus services, forced the adjournment of the meeting until June 3, and revealed plans to seek authority to nominate up to four representatives to the nine-strong board of ADT.

Although Michael Ashcroft, chairman and chief executive of ADT, currently sits on the Laidlaw board, Laidlaw lost boardroom representation at ADT after Michael de Groot, the company's founder, retired to Bermuda.

Laidlaw has started legal action in Bermuda, where ADT is registered, and in America, to unlock a standstill agreement that prevents it from increasing its shareholding to 30 per cent without ADT's consent. ADT maintains the claims "are without merit" and intends to contest the action.

In a strongly worded statement, Mr Ashcroft said that the proceedings were "con-

trived, disingenuous in their purpose and contain substantial factual inaccuracies". He also said that he was "appalled" that Laidlaw should resort to tactical litigation in an attempt to obfuscate the fact that it is seeking effective control of ADT while a party to a standstill agreement.

Relations between the two companies have been tense as a result of ADT's inconclusive investigations in a number of British companies, including Christies International, BAA and Lep Group, and its disappointing financial performance which has affected its shares. In turn, Laidlaw has been under pressure because of upheaval at Canadian Pacific, its main shareholder with 27 per cent.

Mr Ashcroft is under pressure to address ADT's financial problems because put options on the company's convertibles represent a potential charge of nearly \$500 million before 1994.

ADT's 1990 pre-tax profits fell 11 per cent to \$258 million, while gearing rose to 100 per cent from a neutral position. ADT alerted the City to the performance in January. Its shares traded 1p lower at 93p yesterday.



Strong words: Michael Ashcroft, ADT chairman

## Elsevier to sell Pearson holding

By COLIN CAMPBELL

ELSEVIER, the Dutch publishing group, is to unwind its cross-holding in Pearson by selling its 8.8 per cent stake in the British publishing group.

The sale should raise between 500 million and 600 million guilders (£147 million and £176.5 million), but is not likely to be effected until after publication of Pearson's 1990 results, due next Monday.

Pearson sold its 22.2 per cent cross-holding in Elsevier in March, raising £313 million, after conceding that the commercial engagement between the two groups would not lead to a marriage.

The Pearson stake in Elsevier was sold to Goldman Sachs, the American investment house, for placing with institutional investors. Elsevier's 8.8 per cent stake in Pearson is likely to be placed in similar fashion.

Elsevier said it will use the proceeds of the sale to help fund its £440 million purchase of Pergamon Press.

Elsevier had been expected to remain a shareholder in Pearson, despite Pearson's sale of the Elsevier stake last month.

Pearson said that it was not entirely surprised by Elsevier's decision to sell.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Quarto exceeds £4m despite difficult year

QUARTO, the publishing and production services group, managed to lift pre-tax profits from £3.89 million to £4.06 million last year despite a difficult trading environment. The increase comes after the decision to withdraw from magazine publishing at the end of last year. Quarto's figures include a full contribution from the magazine activities, which made a trading loss of about £500,000.

The withdrawal from magazines was largely responsible for an extraordinary loss of £1.49 million. Interest charge jumped to £430,000 (£152,000). Turnover grew 17 per cent to £39 million. Earnings per share climbed from 17.7p to 17.9p. The final dividend has been maintained at 3.375p, making an unchanged 4.875p. The board says orders for book packing publishing are "extremely encouraging". The shares rose 14 to 119p.

### Dieter to join APV board

APV, the food equipment manufacturer, has appointed Werner Dieter, the chairman of Mannesmann, one of Europe's largest engineering companies, as a non-executive director to its board. The appointment will become effective in April, 1992, when Dr Dieter will succeed Baron Hugh Krajenhoff, the chairman of Alzo, the Dutch group, who will step down.

### Average house now £58,053

AVERAGE UK house price rose 0.7 per cent to £58,053 in March, according to the latest monthly survey from the Nationwide Angli Building Society. John Hutchinson, the retail operations director, said: "It signs are that we may be starting to experience a modest recovery in the house market following the leveling out of prices in recent months."

### Edinburgh Fund falls

EDINBURGH Fund Managers, one of Scotland's largest fund management groups, has announced a 14 per cent drop in pre-tax profits from £4.9 million to £4.2 million for the months to end-January. A final dividend of 7.5p makes 1.1p for the year, against 11.5p previously.

Funds under management fell 13 per cent from £1.6 billion to £1.4 billion, with the biggest decrease in Japanese investment funds. These fell from £246 million (15 per cent of funds) to £112 million. Turnover fell from £8.1 million to £7.7 million, while earnings slipped from 17.1p to 15.9p.

### Chief named at Nestlé

PETER Blackburn, pictured left, has been appointed chairman and managing director of Nestlé Holdings (UK) and is responsible for all British operations of the Swiss food group. He succeeds Frank Edwa who has retired. Mr Blackburn was previously chairman of Rowntree Macintosh Confectionery and is of Nestlé's worldwide chocolate strategy group.



### Omni wins protection

OMNI Holding, the Swiss financial holding company, escaped receivership after a Swiss judge said it could repudiate all its assets were liquidated.

Paul Kadin, president of the Berne district court, said seems not only the secured but also the unsecured claims be 100 per cent covered, and granted Omni four moratorium protection from creditors to meet its commitments. O sought court protection last month, suffering the effect high interest rates and depreciation of shareholdings.

## Pension funds 'at a 16-year low'

By JONATHAN PRYNN

BRITAIN'S best performing large pension fund management group turned in a negative return of 8.5 per cent last year, the worst for the industry since 1974, according to a survey.

Phillips & Drew Fund Management headed the table of pension fund managers for 1990, compiled by *Equity International*, the financial magazine. All but five of the UK fund managers with at least £1 billion under management responded. Mercury Asset Management, the largest British pension fund manager, did not participate. Sec-

ond, with a negative return of 8.7 per cent, was Queen Anne's Gate. Third was NM Rothschild Fund Management with a 9 per cent negative return. The average negative return of respondents was 11.2 per cent, against 10.6 per cent for pension fund managers as a whole.

The worst disclosed performer in 1990, Fidelity, emerged as the top performer over the five-year period of 1986 to 1990, with a positive return of 14.6 per cent per annum. On the five year measure, Phillips & Drew comes out third, with 12.7 per cent.

## Receivers in at Omnitel subsidiaries

SHARES in Omnitel, the USM designer and developer of packaging systems, were suspended after the company appointed receivers at two subsidiaries. The ordinary shares were suspended at 17p and the 12 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock, 2000, at 85p.

Administrative receivers were called in at Omnitel (Manufacturing) and Omnitel (Europe) after the collapse of last week's restructuring talks.

The group employs about 30 people. Omnitel's pre-tax losses deepened to £1.48 million (£48,000) in the year to end-July, 1990.

## Merlin requests share suspension

By MATTHEW BOND

THE mystery surrounding Merlin International Properties has thickened significantly, with the shares being suspended at 5p yesterday, valuing the ailing property group at under £3 million.

Merlin's shares were suspended at the company's own request after it became apparent that an offer document posted to shareholders last week had been sent in error.

Luire, a newly created British Virgin Islands company, whose parent company, Estonia Venture, was registered in Panama, bid for Merlin at the end of February. Sonaire Finance, a Swiss company controlled by Peter Borgas a little known Swiss businessman, provided the finance for the £2.9 million bid.

Despite the fact that little appeared to be known about

the beneficial ownership of Luire, the cash bid was recommended by the Merlin board largely on the grounds that the likely alternative would be receivership.

As to Luire's ultimate ownership, Smith New Court, which is advising Merlin, said Luire's offshore structure made it clear that the people involved were trying to keep their identity secret.

Smith New Court said Luire's offer document had been posted in error and without the consent of the Merlin board.

It advised shareholders to take no action until advised by the board again.

But a spokesman would not say why the posting of an offer document in error should lead to the company's shares being suspended.



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Registered Office: 99 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2LA, United Kingdom

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held at Level 18, 1 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong on Tuesday 14 May 1991 at 3.00 pm to transact the following ordinary business:

1 to receive and consider the Accounts and Balance Sheet and the Reports of the Directors and of the Auditors for the year ended December 1990;

2 to re-elect Directors;

3 to reappoint Auditors and authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration

and by way of special business to consider and (if thought fit) pass the following resolution which will be proposed as an Ordinary Resolution:

4 "THAT the Directors be and they are hereby generally and unconditionally authorised pursuant to and for the purposes of section 80 of the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act") to exercise all the powers of the Company to allot relevant securities (within the meaning of that section) up to an aggregate nominal amount of HK\$3,746,031,760 provided that this authority shall be limited so that, other than pursuant to (i) a rights issue where relevant securities are offered to shareholders on a fixed record date in proportion to their then holdings of shares (subject to such exclusions or other arrangements as the Directors may deem necessary or expedient relation to fractional entitlements or having regard to any restrictions or obligations under the laws of or the requirements of a recognised regulatory body or stock exchange in any territory outside Hong Kong or otherwise howsoever) or (ii) any scrip dividend scheme or similar arrangements implemented in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Company, the nominal amount of the relevant securities to be allotted by the Directors pursuant to this authority shall not in aggregate exceed HK\$812,698,412 (equivalent to five per cent of the nominal amount of the issued Ordinary share capital of the Company as at the date of this Meeting) and this authority shall expire at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held in 1992 save that this authority shall allow the Company before the expiry of this authority to make offers or agreements which would or might require relevant securities to be allotted after such expiry and the Directors may allot relevant securities in pursuance of such offers or agreements as if the authority conferred hereby had not expired."

and the following resolution which will be proposed as a Special Resolution:

5 "THAT, subject to the passing of Resolution No. 4 set out in the Notice convening this Meeting, the Directors be and they are hereby empowered, pursuant to section 95 of the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act") to allot equity securities (as defined in section 94 of the Act) pursuant to the authority conferred by the aforesaid Resolution No. 4 as if section 89(1) of the Act did not apply to any allotment provided that this power shall expire at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held in 1992 save that this power shall enable the Company prior to the expiry of this power to make offers or agreements which would or might require equity securities to be allotted after the expiry of this power and the Directors may allot equity securities in pursuance of such offers or agreements as if the power conferred hereby had not expired."

By Order of the Board  
R G Barber  
Secretary

Hong Kong, 3 April 19

### Notes

(1) A member entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting is entitled to appoint one or more proxies to attend and, on a poll, vote instead of him. A proxy need not be a member. Completion and return of an instrument appointing a proxy will not preclude a member from attending and voting in person at the Meeting.

(2) In order to be valid, the instrument appointing a proxy and the power of attorney or other authority (if any) under which it is signed, a copy of such authority certified notarijly or in some other way approved by the Board, must be deposited at the offices of the Registrar National Westminster Bank PLC, Registrar's Department, PO Box 83, Cannon House, Redcliffe Way, Bristol BS50 7NH, United Kingdom or at the offices of the Registrars in Hong Kong, Central Registration Hong Kong Limited, Hopewell Centre, 19th Floor, 183 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong, not less than 48 hours before the time of the holding of the Meeting (or any adjourned meeting).

(3) In the case of joint registered holders of any share, the vote of the senior who tenders a vote, whether in person or by proxy, shall be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of the other joint holders. For this purpose seniority shall be determined by the order in which the names of the holders stand in the Principal Register or the Hong Kong Overseas Branch Register as appropriate.

(4) The general purpose of the authority to be conferred on the Directors by Resolutions Nos 4 and 5 above is to enable the Directors to allot shares up to a specified number without having first to obtain the consent of shareholders in general meeting. The need for such an issue of shares could, for example, arise in the context of a transaction (such as the acquisition of a company) which had to be completed speedily. The granting of such an authority is now commonplace and the Directors take the view that it would be in the interests of the Company if the authority were granted to them.

The Directors have undertaken that no capital will be issued which would effectively change the control of the Company or the nature of its business without the prior approval of shareholders in general meeting. They have at this time no plans to issue additional shares other than in connection with the scrip dividend scheme.

(5) None of the Directors has a service contract with the Company.



SS ROUNDUP  
xceeds £4m  
difficult year  
ing and production services  
profits from £3.89 million to  
a difficult trading environment  
decision to withdraw from the  
last year. Quarto's figures for  
the magazine activities, which  
00,000.  
magazines was largely  
ss of £1.49 million. Interest  
52,000). Turnover grew 17 per  
share climbed from 17.7p to  
been maintained at 3.375p. The  
board says orders for books  
dy encouraging". The share

n Average ho  
now £58.08  
AVERAGE UK house  
in rose 0.7 per cent  
to £58,053 in March, the  
to the latest monthly  
from the Nationwide  
Building Society's  
Hutchinson, the sales  
signs are that we are  
starting to experience  
est recovery in the  
market following the  
ing out of price

Chief nam  
at Nestle  
PETER Blackburn, chief  
left, has been named as  
the director of Nestle  
all British operations  
the Swiss food giant, the  
succeeds Frank Oetli  
man of Rowntree. Almost  
to Nestle's worldwide  
the late strategic group  
any recent attempts at  
financial engineering.  
Herr Rohwedder carried  
the Swiss judge said it  
was a financial collapse.  
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and but also the unsuccess  
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to meet its commitment  
at last month, suffering  
depreciation of sharehold

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depreciation of sharehold

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18, Queen's Road Central  
and of the Andromeda

Easter is a vital trading season for the DIY trade. By most accounts it was buoyant, helped by the weather and the Budget incentive for people to beat the rise in VAT on all sorts of big-ticket items. This anecdotal evidence backs up the retail sales figures for February, which showed a 1 per cent rise on the month and brought the first quarter on quarter increase since last summer.

Has consumer spending started bouncing back already? Frustratingly, that crucial question may not be answered for about six weeks, when some less undistorted figures for this month's retail sales appear.

The government figures for February, which appeared the day before the Budget, were treated with great scepticism by several of the biggest mainstream high street store chains. The increase was mainly due to purchases of food and everyday household goods that never really suffered from recession.

If some of the sheds and durables groups had a good Easter, even optimism remains patchy. The clothing trade and

What future for the German Treuhand?

12.5% SOLD (Bank, insurance, cars, etc.)  
25% UNDER NEGOTIATIONS (optics etc.)  
61% PENDING (ships, chemicals, etc.)  
1.5% CLOSED DOWN (airline, cameras, etc.)

GERMANY'S SLOW HANDOVER OF ENTERPRISES

unemployment did not turn out to be the consequence of large scale company closures, once predicted to reach over 2,000, but is in fact a result of the Treuhand success in privatisation. In each case, be it Opel and Volkswagen taking over the former car combines, or Carl Zeiss Oberkochen buying its namesake in Jena, western companies were only prepared to make the investment at the cost of large scale redundancies.

One company, Robotron, an electronics firm now owned by Siemens, reduced its staff from 68,000 to 15,000. The faster companies were privatised, the faster the rate of unemployment rose. Today, this rate is nominally 8.9 per cent of the workforce, but this does not include those on short time, about 21.5 per cent of the 8.8 million workforce. A further 1 million civil servants

rch junior  
ds at Nikko  
KO Securities, the third  
at Japanese securities  
e after Nomura and  
a - and on a par with  
aichi - has made another  
ive move into the UK  
European equities market  
week. It has launched a  
l, but significant, sales  
to supplement the re-  
h team built up by For-  
over the past three  
And the man chosen to  
that sales team, is Philip  
being at least, is Philip  
aged 27, son of the  
er Ward White chairman  
bears the same name  
h junior", as he is known  
his family, to save  
sion, resigned from  
centrale Gilbert Elliot a  
ago, where he had been  
oyed as a humble sales-  
and has now joined  
as a manager of the  
ing sales division. Thus  
comprises himself and  
trainees, with a fourth  
nan being sought in the  
term. "The idea was to  
op a research product  
ing 100 UK and 100  
ean stocks and that  
ch product is now at a  
actory level, in terms of  
y and the number of  
covered," says Birch.  
cover three European  
ries, France, Germany  
pain, and 60 per cent of  
K market. But until now,  
rm has had relatively  
or no distribution, with  
t that it had a cost base  
needed to set up the

Boomerang day  
IN THESE tricky times, financial  
advisers will do anything -  
and I mean anything - to  
win new business. Campbell  
Financial Services, of Guild-  
ford, Surrey, has launched  
"The Boomerang Refund Pen-  
sion", a scheme which, un-  
usually, will charge clients a

# Consumers hold key to economy

COMMENT

anything connected to people moving house are certainly still in the dumps, as the smattering of January sales still running at Easter testified. Marks & Spencer would not be absorbing the rise in VAT from choice.

The course of retail sales is of direct interest to the stock market, where share prices in consumer sectors are already looking through the recession to recovery. The behaviour of consumers is also particularly critical for the economy as a whole. Norman Lamont's Budget forecast of a 2 per cent drop in output this year evidently owed nothing to the February retail trade statistics. The Treasury predicts a 1.7 per cent fall in consumer spending this year.

Other forecasters are almost all more cheerful, chiefly because they take a more phlegmatic view of the British consumer's addition to spending. The London Business School forecasters, for instance, expect output to fall by a mere 0.8 per cent because, like Ian Harnett at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, they predict that consumer spending will rise this year, albeit by a modest 0.3 per cent.

Even the CBI, which is as pessimistic as the Treasury overall, predicts a smaller fall of 0.7 per cent in private consumption, offset by a larger fall in investment. The differences depend on different guesses on how soon the grail of a return of consumer confidence will be found. Shares prices shot up rapidly in response to the fall in interest rates, combined with expected future cuts and the end to the Gulf war uncertainty.

The housing market is renowned as herald of recovery, as well as recession, and shows few signs of life. Perhaps the stock market will prove a better guide to, and promoter of confidence, especially in the Southeast. David Currie and Geoffrey Dicks of the LBS also argue that consumers have the wherewithal to spend if they are minded to since earnings are rising faster than the cost of living, mortgage costs are set to fall and social security payments are up. The high street optimists will hope so.

terms. Yet few could suppose that Tesco needs the helping hand of the Community or that £74 million of loans arranged after the event influenced in any way its commercial choice of site for new outlets.

This is bureaucracy at work. Similarly, shareholders in the privatised water groups have benefited because they have been able to raise money for infrastructure projects from the European Investment Bank at keener rates than the market returns implied in water price limits.

There appears to be a general benefit if money can be raised cheaper through a governmental organisation offering impeccable security, even without a hint of subsidy. But there is not an infinite supply of funds.

The money is not available to all and is therefore at the discretion of bureaucrats making choices. This is exactly what the government has tried to phase out, though ministers seem happy to see Brussels stump up. Finance should not be a matter of politics when the market can provide.

## Tescoal

Having seen its property partner fall into difficulties and finding there was no other eager chequebook ready to buy stores and lease them back, Sir Ian MacLaurin and his Tesco team have been thinking of innovative alternatives to good advantage. Testing the market for a £572 million rights issue

telephone lines, water pipelines and motorways that can be built at any one time.

A third option, to increase investment subsidies to more than the present rate of 45 per cent would be economic nonsense, because the funds would merely be sucked up to bolster profit margins, if this is not the case already.

The one big mistake, apart from no-new-taxes promises by the government, were the ludicrous exchange rates offered to east Germans at the time of monetary union last July. Then, a small amount of savings was exchanged at parity, while the rest, savings and debts, changed hands at a rate of one-for-two, against a former black market rate of one-to-ten.

The exchange rate chosen by the government, and reluctantly accepted by the Bundesbank, made most people instantly better off while ruining the competitiveness of the east German industry. The combined effect was disastrous, on the companies as well as on the people who are now asked to work for a wage rate which is a mere fraction of their own Deutschmark savings. For them, being unemployed or being in low-paid jobs makes little economic difference.

Eastern Germans, who still regard equal wages and employment opportunities as civil rights, cannot be blamed for their monetary and economic illiteracy. Now that the exchange rate has been determined, and the scope for subsidies and aid packages has been exhausted, there is nothing that can alter the course of their economic fate.

The Treuhand, and Herr Rohwedder, who, according to a German government spokesman "out of patriotic conviction worked as no other to create the economic build-up", were only pawns in this destructive, and yet inevitable, process.

WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU  
European Business Correspondent

## Inchcape motors on with a little help from Toyota

ONLY a succession of privatisations has denied Inchcape a place in the FT-SE 100 index over the past couple of years. All it would appear to need now to make the breakthrough is a rating in line with the market average, and that cannot be far off.

Having shown its paces in the bull market, it is now demonstrating its strengths in recession. While virtually unchanged pre-tax profits of £174 million include a maiden 12-month contribution from the Hutchison acquisition in Hong Kong, and the cashflow benefits of January 1990's Toyota cash injection, there is no question that Sir George Turnbull's quality management team has coped impressively with the worldwide slowdown.

The only areas to give cause for concern were the buying services division, pushed into loss by computerisation costs, but now recovering, and timber, where American and United Kingdom house-building slumps undermined prices, but which, again, is showing signs of picking up.

It is the performance by the motor division that catches the eye, however, with sales up 10 per cent in volume, and an improved share of the United Kingdom market by the group's main Toyota franchise.

Only now is the market waking up to the potential of Toyota's new plant at Derby, which will be producing 200,000 cars a year by the end of 1992, and, given Nissan's problems, to the brilliance of the deal struck with the Japanese over distribution rights.

Markheath gamely con-

cedes that its Australian parent's difficulties dictated the timing and terms of the disposal of Camford. In March, Markheath arranged the sale of most of its 23 per cent shareholding in Frogmore Estates for a maximum consideration of £25.52 million, incurring losses of £10 million against book value.

Markheath emerges with some dignity from the Camford sale, retaining property estimated at £22 million, which leaves a nominal profit of £6 million before costs. It is disposing of its manufacturing interests at the bottom of the industrial cycle, however, suggesting intense pressures.

Markheath's year-end was March 31, but forecasts are hard to come by because of the fast-changing circumstances. Half-year profits were up 52 per cent to £6.6 million, but until Adesman's fate is settled Markheath's shares are best left to the speculators.

Sotheby's

SOTHEBY'S Holdings, born English in 1744 and naturalised American in 1983 when Alfred Taubman bought the group for £87.2 million, wants to be better loved in the land of its birth, and is out to convince that it is a London-quoted share worth following.

But timing, as bidding is an art in itself, and a warning from Sotheby's that, after a dip in the 1990 results, the going in the short term is going to get tougher suggests that the

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

wherewithal to earn revenue." Meanwhile, colleagues at Nikko's offices, in Victoria, London, would be entirely wrong if they holding a mass boomerang throw at The Monument on April 25, which is Anzac Day. "We will have several hundred boomerangs," says Anthony Caswell, the managing director, who, spotting a good sales opportunity, has dubbed the event The Boomerang Convention for Pensions.

AN INTERNATIONAL conference on slope stability and landslides is being held by the Institute of Civil Engineers this month on the Isle of Wight, the most landslide-prone area of Britain. It is being held at The Cliff Tops Hotel.

Petty mourned

JOHN Petty, one of Fleet Street's last shipping correspondents, died yesterday after a brief illness. Petty, aged 60, who joined The Daily Telegraph in 1970 after spells on various newspapers, including The Times, was well-known in the fields of shipping, transport and industry. He began his career on the Derby Evening Telegraph, before going to the Manchester Evening News, the Oxford Mail, and the Manchester Evening Chronicle. Roland Gribben, business editor of the Telegraph and a long-time colleague, said Petty was a perfect gentleman who performed his work with quiet efficiency. He used to give up two weeks of his annual holiday each year to edit the

Few computer manufacturers could ever hope to fulfil such an order. £16 million worth of commercially available PCs and Laptops, complete with printers, software and supplies for Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

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# Pirelli Tyre to cut 1,700 jobs after loss

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

PIRELLI Tyre Holdings, the Amsterdam-quoted tyre company, is to shed 1,700 workers this year because of overcapacity and disappointing financial results.

The company, which suffered from the global recession in the tyre industry, incurred a 9.3 million guilders (£2.8 million) net loss last year after minority interests. The dividend, previously F1.2 per share, has been dropped.

The results are in line with expectations after Pirelli Tyre, a subsidiary of Pirelli SpA, the Italian engineering conglomerate, said in December that it would break even last year. Before minority interests, there was a profit of F1.6 million. Sales fell 7 per cent to F1.6 billion, largely due to a fall in prices and lower sales volumes. The downturn in business was most pronounced in the company's North and South American operations.

Pirelli said that the results reflected the difficulties of the world tyre industry, highlighted by the swift and deep deterioration of competitive conditions and of the financial results of all main competitors. The group added: "Owing to a lag in demand, coinciding with the completion of important investment plans, excess production capacity has, in fact, been created."

The results are likely to present a further setback in Pirelli SpA's struggle to take over Continental, the German tyre company. Last September, Pirelli launched a DM2 billion reverse takeover bid for Continental. Although the bid has been rejected by shareholders, Pirelli hopes another decision by shareholders to lift a 5 per cent voting rights restriction will enable it to succeed with the takeover.

If that decision wins court approval, it will open the door for Pirelli to increase its stake, currently just under 5 per cent, in Continental.

Some Continental shareholders have, however, launched a protest against the vote to lift the 5 per cent restriction, fearing that legal proceedings over the matter may last years.

## Fimbra is worth protecting

From Mr Garry Heath

Sir, I must take issue with your recent contributor, Mr Peter Stallard (Business Letters, March 19), who advocated the destruction of Fimbra and the ceding of its component parts to other regulators. His suggestions would bring down the level of real consumer protection to the level of lip service only.

Whilst I have no great argument with "C", or, more correctly, category 1 members, joining Imro if they wish, the idea of the category 3 members being foisted on to Lauro fills me with dread. Lauro have so far paid the merest lip service to the Financial Services Act.

Currently, Fimbra have not only vetted the member company but also each individual salesman. Lauro do not know who their members employ. How can you regulate a company when you do not know how they employ?

Sadly, commercial pressure often leads to branch managers employing undesirable people. It is a matter of "never mind the quality feel the quantity".

This short-term thinking, married with a lack of resolve to truly protect the consumer, is bringing the whole Act into disrepute. The Securities and Investments Board allows this to happen to its own disgrace and to the embarrassment of the Government.

Mr Stallard finally suggests

Category "B" members to be moved to the Insurance Brokers' Registration Council (IBRC).

In this category are those who accept clients' investment money which is not allowed by IBRC. Even if the rules were changed, IBRC is not going to be able under its current structure to adequately administer these people.

Mr Stallard and others would be well advised to leave Fimbra alone.

In the last three years it has had to involve itself in a great amount of archeology into companies which were either unregulated or regulated by the DTI which is much the same thing.

Not surprisingly, it has found a number of miscreants who have been defrauding the public for years, in one case fifteen years.

If one looks at the quantity of frauds since "A" day, the amount defrauded by Fimbra members is tiny. Fimbra is doing a great job in protecting the public, it is a pity other bodies do not take consumer protection more seriously.

Yours faithfully,  
GARRY HEATH,  
Chief Executive,  
National Federation of Independent Financial Advisers,  
Merlin House,  
Lancaster Road,  
High Wycombe,  
Buckinghamshire.

## Credit VAT bonus

From Mr M. Gilleland

Sir, As a hotelier accepting credit card payment, I have always felt credit card companies and the banks which support them do well to take commission not only on the cost of the service or goods purchased, but also a cut of the Government's VAT tax. In view of the Chancellor's decision to increase VAT to 17.5 per cent, it would appear that the credit card companies have gained further commission on the extra 2.5 per cent tax without having to lift a finger.

Different retailers are charged different commission rates. In view of the fact that so many payments are made for goods and services using credit cards, it is not time for the payment slip to be modified to show VAT as a separate item and the commission to be charged on the value of the goods or service only.

I approached the local VAT office, the credit card companies and the Office of Fair Trading, and they acknowledge commission is taken on a government tax and is therefore legal and above board, but as yet no one has furnished me with the details of the terms and conditions agreed between the card companies and the Government. Perhaps someone will be able to explain.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN GILLELAND,  
The Marsh Country Hotel  
Eyton, Leominster,  
Herefordshire.

## Financial advisers and qualifications

From Mr Daniel K. Freedman

Sir, Independent financial advisers are an industry of "professionals" without a qualification. To most members of the public, a professional person is one who is qualified through long term training and has qualifications through examination passes which confirm his status.

In the insurance and financial services industry, there are many of us who shirk the qualification responsibilities. Although many of the large insurance companies have encouraged their staff to take the CII exams, many IFAs have never attempted to become qualified.

The attempts by SIB and Oonagh McDonald to set an industry-wide qualification should be encouraged; too many of the "old timers" in our industry consider that simply a number of years' experience is sufficient to be a "professional" and for the public to "trust" them. The qualification in itself will help to improve the quality of advice. I am sure that the main benefit will be the perception of the general public towards our industry.

We have seen, and are going to see, many more disasters and the public perception of Fimbra members has been dented severely by the scandals that are continuing within our business. It is time the public realised that the vast majority of IFAs are honest, competent and professional.

With the help of Fimbra and the other organisations, I must be made clear to the public that a strong independent sector can only be a benefit to the advice that the public can receive.

It is important, through qualifications, that the general public are able to realise that we are a "professional" industry. There are plenty of instances of accountants as lawyers committing fraud, and being severely disciplined. However, despite the facts, accountants' and lawyers' reputations and the public perception are undented. This is how our industry should be viewed, as a reputation and a professionalisation to be proud of.

We should all take and upon ourselves to encourage self-qualification ahead of Oonagh McDonald's initiative at London & Capital. 17 of 20 of our consultants, qualified through the LIA examination. More IFAs should be encouraged to do so before it is too late. They must take the initiative because time for the amateur is running out: long live professionals.

Yours sincerely,  
D. K. FREEDMAN,  
Director,  
London & Capital,  
49 Marylebone High St  
W1.

## UK plan to end Kuwaiti oil fires

By NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A PLAN for tackling the Kuwaiti oil fires is expected to be taken to the Gulf by Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, when he visits the region next week. The plan has been developed by WS Atkins, the consulting engineer.

Devised with SSD Porch of Eastbourne, East Sussex, and Mowlem International in Bracknell, Berkshire, the scheme could help British companies win lucrative fire-fighting contracts that at the moment are being won mainly by the Americans.

The plan involves the novel use of an elastic-plastic material that is being tested by British Rail as a durable anti-avalanche coating at stations.

Nick Heat, a director at WS Atkins Oil and Gas Division in Epsom, Surrey, said it had developed a way of using the material to rapidly create a series of huge lagoons in the desert into which sea water can be pumped for dousing or extinguishing the oil fires.

The material, called a polyurea, can be sprayed onto



Lilley: Gulf trip next week

a depression in the sand directly or onto a matting of ultra thin glass fibres. It dries in five minutes and construction equipment can be driven over it in an hour.

WS Atkins estimates 10 million gallons of water are needed for each well which equals about 50 lagoons. The initial contract, if won, could be worth £25 million.

The material, made by mixing two fluids, might be capable of plugging wells rapidly as tests indicate it can be made to harden in less than a second.

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## Fax number

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Series	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Atk Lymn	500	32	45	6	18	22			
(S24)	550	3	20	37	45	50			
Atk Lymn	600	14	8	20	79	86	88		
(S24)	120	8	15	17	26	3	10	14	
ASDA	130	34	99	13	8	10	14		
(S126)	140	1	56	8	17	19	19		
Bax	977	10	40	64	24	28	36		
(S193)	1035	25	45	95	105	113			
Bax	1075	11	30	145	145	150			
(S193)	330	41	50	1	9	11			
Bax	340	10	21	33	10	19	22		
(S193)	340	10	21	33	10	19	22		
Br Airways	140	31	32	35	1	5	7		
(S169)	180	3	74	13	14	24	25		
BP	300	36	43	48	2	5	8		
(S193)	730	115	22	30	60	14	19		
Br Steel	340	2	16	26	31	36			
(S145)	120	18	21	21	1	4	5		
C&W	160	14	4	6	17	22	23		
(S15)	460	58	73	87	19	15			
CHI	550	5	23	34	41	51	55		
(S131)	460	63	80	85	14	6	11		
Commod	500	28	50	57	7	12	13		
(S101)	500	28	50	57	7	12	13		
GRN	700	17	30	42	65	16	11		
(S180)	300	23	40	45	54	15	22		
Grand Met	700	119	144	155	1	7	13		
(S122)	720	72	108	118	4	17	24		
ICI	800	38	72	87	17	12	38		
(S1066)	1050	38	87	101	19	40	60		
Kingfisher	300	68	73	87	17	12	38		
(S145)	420	38	47	56	46	13	20		
Lafayette	460	14	25	36	36	36	36		
(S199)	280	40	42	52	2	8	11		
Land Sec	300	19	28	32	14	28			
(S142)	500	10	21	33	36	32	35		
M&S	600	14	65	15	60	60	70		
(S150)	230	24	29	36	14	1	1		
Shell	360	2	840	20	26	28			
(S150)	300	55	55	65	26	3	4		
Shell	420	73	89	95	2	4	6		
(S173)	500	9	30	37	15	23	33		
Shell Borch	700	74	96	116	3	13	17		
(S173)	750	13	30	37	41	43	57		
Standard	110	6	11	15	4	9	12		

## Swire Pacific Limited 1990 Final Results

**Audited Consolidated Results.** The profit attributable to shareholders for the year ended 31st December 1990 was US\$314.1 million, as compared with US\$395.2 million for the previous year. This represents a decrease of 20.5%.

Exchange rate used: US\$1 = HK\$7.8

	1990 US\$M	1989 US\$M
Turnover	3,996.7	3,548.2
Operating profit	630.5	708.9
Net finance charges	48.8	34.3
Net operating profit	581.7	674.6
Associated companies	31.2	43.9
Profit before taxation and minorities	612.9	718.5
Taxation	88.5	90.4
Minority interests	210.3	232.9
Profit attributable to shareholders	314.1	395.2
Earnings per share:	US\$	US\$
'A' shares	19.8	24.9
'B' shares	4.0	5.0
Dividends per share:	US\$	US\$
'A' shares		
- interim	2.9	2.9
- final, recommended	7.3	7.3
	10.2	10.2
'B' shares		
- interim	0.6	0.6
- final, recommended	1.5	1.5
	2.1	2.1
Net assets per share:	US\$	US\$
'A' shares	2.32	2.19
'B' shares	0.46	0.44

**Divisional Results.** Cathay Pacific Airways Limited's 1990 results were 9.8% lower than those of the previous year, with a revenue load factor for the year of 74.3% compared with 75.6% for 1989. Given the severe difficulties experienced by the aviation industry, particularly in the second half of 1990, this should be considered a satisfactory outcome. Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company Limited had a good year, with an increase in profits of 5%, in the face of continued emigration. Swire Properties Limited's 1990 profits were lower, with a sharp drop in the contribution from property trading only being offset to a degree by increased rental income in Hong Kong which rose to US\$101.5 million from US\$77.4 million in 1989. The Hong Kong activities of the Offshore Oil and Shipping Services Division recorded good growth in profitability, whilst losses in respect of offshore activities were much

reduced. The Industries Division's otherwise good operating results were impacted by rationalisation costs and the overall profit for the year was lower than that of 1989. Both the Trading Division and the Insurance Division reported sharply lower profits in 1990, reflecting difficult market conditions.

**Financing.** Consolidated net borrowings at the end of 1990, including the indirect borrowings represented by finance leasing obligations, amounted to US\$1,361.7 million, compared with US\$1,000.2 million at the end of 1989. The increase in overall Group borrowings reflects a high level of capital expenditure during the year, and the weakening of the Hong Kong dollar towards the end of the year which increased foreign currency obligations when expressed in Hong Kong dollars.

**Final Dividends.** Final dividends to be recommended at the Annual General Meeting on 30th May 1991 amount to US\$7.3¢ (HK\$57.0¢) per 'A' share and US\$1.5¢ (HK\$11.4¢) per 'B' share, the same as for 1989. Share registers will be closed from 20th May 1991 to 24th May 1991, both dates inclusive, and dividends will be payable on 7th June 1991 to shareholders registered on 24th May 1991.

**Investment Properties and Net Asset Value.** The annual valuation at open market value of the Group's investment properties, both completed and under development, was carried out at 31st December 1990 by professionally qualified executives of Swire Properties Limited. The 1990 valuation, at US\$3,095.2 million, has resulted in an increase of US\$57.4 million in the valuation reserves of the Group. Taking into account both the retained earnings in 1990 and the increase in the valuation of investment properties, the net asset value of the Swire Pacific Group at 31st December 1990 was US\$3,678.2 million.

**Prospects.** Cathay Pacific is likely to have a difficult year in 1991, reflecting the adverse conditions which continue to affect the airline industry generally, as a result both of a downturn in economic activity in major markets and of the residual effects of recent events in the Middle East. The overall occupancy level for the Group's portfolio of investment properties is good, although there was a softening of demand in the office rental market during 1990. Net rental income is expected to increase significantly in 1991. The overall outlook for the Swire Pacific Group beyond 1991 is encouraging though significant uncertainties as regards the performance of Cathay Pacific in 1991 currently make it difficult to take a comprehensive view on Swire Pacific's prospects, particularly so near to the ending of the Gulf War.

The Annual Report for 1990 will be sent to shareholders on 7th May 1991.

D.A. Gledhill  
Chairman

Hong Kong, 27th March 1991

Swire Pacific Limited

## THE TIMES ACCOUNTANCY & FINANCE APPOINTMENTS

APPEAR IN THE  
BUSINESS NEWS PAGES  
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TO ADVERTISE PHONE  
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## National Provident Institution

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 155th Annual General Meeting of members of National Provident Institution will be held at Chartered Accountants' Hall, 11 Copthall Avenue, London EC2 on Wednesday 8 May 1991 at 12.15 pm for the transaction of the following ordinary business:

- To receive and consider the accounts and report of the directors for the year ended 31 December 1990.
- To re-elect directors.
- To re-appoint Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte as auditors and to authorise the directors to determine their remuneration.

By order of the Board, S.J. O'Brien, Secretary,  
National Provident House, Tunbridge Wells,  
Kent TN11 2UE.

NPI

If you would like a copy of NPI's Report and Accounts 1990, write to John Fisher, National Provident Institution, National Provident House, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN11 2UE.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Aktiebolaget SKF will be held at SKF Kristinehamn, Byfogedgatan 4, Göteborg, at 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday April 23, 1991.

## Annual General Meeting

### Agenda

Ordinary general meeting business will be transacted in accordance with Swedish law and the Articles of Association.

### Notice of Attendance

For the right to participate in the meeting, shareholders must be recorded in the shareholders' register kept by the Securities Register Centre (VPC AB) by Friday April 12 and must notify the Company before noon Thursday April 18 of their intention to attend (Aktiebolaget SKF S-115 50) Göteborg. Tel: +46-31-37 26 52). Giving details of name, address, telephone and shareholding.

### Payment of Dividends

The Board recommends that shareholders with holdings in the register records on April 30 are entitled to receive dividends for 1990. If this date is accepted by the Annual General Meeting it is expected that the Securities Register Centre will send out notices of payment to recorded shareholders and listed depositaries on May 8, 1990. The proposed dividend is 4.25 kronor per share.

To facilitate payment of dividends, shareholders who have changed address are recommended to inform Värdepapperscentralen VPC AB, S-171 18 Solna, well before April 30.

Proxy forms are available from:  
AB SKF, S-415 50 Göteborg, Sweden.  
Tel: +46-31-37 26 52 & 37 10 00.

Göteborg, April 1991.

The Board of Directors

SKF



WALL STREET

Dow moves up quickly as buyers come back

With the help of a strong rally in the technology sector, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 17.55 points to 2,898.19. The Hang Seng index ended 44.02 higher at 3,789.99. The broader-based Hong Kong index rose 28.62 to 2,482.34. Frankfurt - Prices finished a lacklustre day just off the day's highs, with the Dax index ending up 15.82 points at 1,434.82. Sydney - Investors bailed out of the Adsteam group in an otherwise quiet day's trading. The All-Ordinaries index ended 9.3 points down at 1,434.8. Singapore - Prices closed down but off the day's lows as selective bargain hunting helped to recover losses. The Straits Times Industrial Index closed at 1,480.49, down 5.88 points. (Reuters)

Table with 4 columns: Date, Index, Change, % Change. Rows include various market indices and their performance over time.

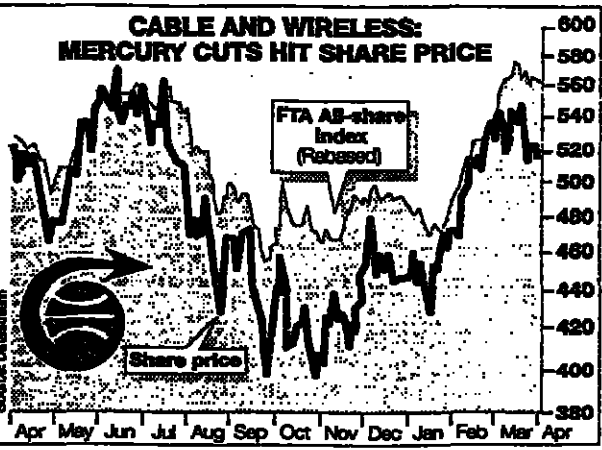
Table with 4 columns: Index, Value, Change, % Change. Rows include FT-SE 100 VOLUMES and other market data.

Table with 4 columns: Index, Value, Change, % Change. Rows include TRADITIONAL OPTIONS and other market data.

STOCK MARKET

Americans lead buying spree as equity prices surge

SHARE prices surged ahead when the new account started as Warburg Securities became bullish about the equity market and one American securities house carried out a £100 million buy programme. The FT-SE 100 index closed back at an earlier fall of 18 points to finish near the top with a rise of 31.8 points at 2,488.3, helped by an opening rise of 30 shares advanced. The index of 30 shares advanced 32.0 to 1,985.9. A total of 547 million shares changed hands, although the bulk of last night's programme trade is expected to be reflected in today's figures.



at the time of its £572 million rights issue. Dealers gave their approval to the full-year figures from Incheape, the overseas trader, although pre-tax profits were virtually unchanged at £174 million. The shares responded with a rise of 13p to 319p.

Investors had been beset earlier by worries about higher German interest rates and another gloomy survey from the CBI. Prices had also been depressed by a long list of companies in ex-dividend form.

Traders said that despite the early market-down there had been a noticeable absence of sellers as fund managers started the second quarter of the trading year with some of them still expecting another cut in interest rates. Government securities closed with small losses on the day.

There were double-figure gains for Glaxo, 25p to £11.32, SmithKline Beecham A, 15p to 772p, ICI 10p to £10.65, Bass 30p to 193p, British Aerospace 18p to 632p, Trafalgar House 16p to 261p, and Thorne EMI 13p to 730p.

Cable and Wireless fell 10p to 515p after its Mercury subsidiary announced it was cutting the cost of national long-distance calls by 3% per cent from April 22. Business customers directly linked to Mercury are expected to save an average of 12 per cent. But analysts were worried that the move by Mercury was another step toward a price war with its rival, British Telecom, 9p better at 349p. But Mercury insists the cut will not hurt profits growth.

Tesco advanced 2p to 76p. That compares with the 6p offered by Costa Vytella, 7p better at 158p. Cadbury Schweppes advanced 7p to a peak of 391p. The company continues to deny City gossip that it is contemplating a rights issue. Talk in the market-place yesterday suggested that Cadbury would like to make a bid for Dr Pepper, the American soft drinks group.

Elsewhere in the food sector, selective support lifted Tate & Lyle 5p to 352p and Rank Hovis McDougall 6p to 324p, while Unilever firmed 1p to 763p in ex-dividend form as did United Biscuits, 2p to 390p.

Tesco, the supermarket chain, reporting today, rose 5p to 269p. The group forecasts pre-tax profits of £416 million.

Table with 4 columns: Index, Value, Change, % Change. Rows include MAJOR INDICES and other market data.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Table with 4 columns: Index, Value, Change, % Change. Rows include various world market indices and their performance.

Local currency. Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with 4 columns: Index, Value, Change, % Change. Rows include EQUITIES and other market data.

BUY OUR LAPTOP AND WE'LL GIVE YOU THE PRINTER. Advertisement for Amstrad ALT laptop and Canon printer.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited and HSBC Holdings plc. Reorganisation of group structure. The Scheme of Arrangement (the "Scheme") dated 1 February 1991 between The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited ("HSBC") and the holders of its shares of HK\$2.50 each became effective today.

ALT LAPTOP WITH CANON PRINTER FROM £1599 + VAT. Advertisement for Amstrad ALT laptop and Canon printer.

When we launched our Laptop the critics loved it. "For sheer value for money the Amstrad ALT has to be our best buy." THE CANON BUBBLE JET PRINTER. The Canon BJ-10e printer is small, light, and gives laser quality print. "Superb print quality."



[illegible]

## CONCRETE PLAN

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## MEDIA WATCH

## Back in favour

SAATCHI & Saatchi's re-appointment by the Conservatives surprised many, given the agency's chequered history of promoting the party. After the successful "Labour isn't working" campaign of 1979, Saatchi fared less well in 1987 with the slogan, "Don't let Labour ruin it", and the agency parted company with Central Office after the election. But then Bill Muirhead, Saatchi's new chairman, managed to convince Shaun Woodward, the newly appointed Tory head of communications, that the agency had changed substantially. Mr Muirhead's three-man team has already started work on a campaign which will stress John Major's appeal as an ordinary man and the party's commitment to a strong economy.

## Spirit moves

SATELLITE television evangelism the weekend long could be with us by midsummer. The British arm of Morris Cerullo World Evangelism is negotiating to broadcast its European Family Television Network across the Continent on the Eutelsat satellite, which can be received by half a million viewers in the United Kingdom. The Morris Cerullo church, based in San Diego, has its own 24-hour satellite network, the Inspiration Channel, which makes daily broadcasts to about ten million homes in America. The ministry began making inroads into Europe in February when it launched a daily half-hour evangelical



Morris Cerullo: evangelist programme, Victory with Morris Cerullo, shown every morning at 5.50am. Now there are plans to expand to 22 hours of broadcasting over Sat-Channel, which makes daily broadcasts to about ten million homes in America. The ministry began making inroads into Europe in February when it launched a daily half-hour evangelical

## More for him to read

DESPITE predictions of a shake-out in the crowded men's magazine market, *For Him* magazine is to double publication, going monthly from September. The title's heavy bias towards fashion has proved popular enough, with sales up 15.7 per cent to £8.885 for the period July to December 1990. Chris Astridge, the publisher, claims the rise is due to the increased awareness of men's magazines brought about by the launch of British *Esquire*. "We are more down to earth, there are few pretensions in our magazine," he says. *For Him*'s monthly competition will come from *Esquire*, which sold more than 100,000 of its launch issue, and *GQ*, which claims a circulation of about 70,000 in February and March.

## Ticket returns

BY FRIDAY, following a near-£6 million promotion, the largest in its history, British Airways will have alerted 50,000 winners of free return tickets to the destination of their choice. The competition - which attracted nearly five million entries - ran in the 75 countries covered by BA flights, and entry forms appeared in 290 publications. In return for this huge expenditure the airline has received global editorial

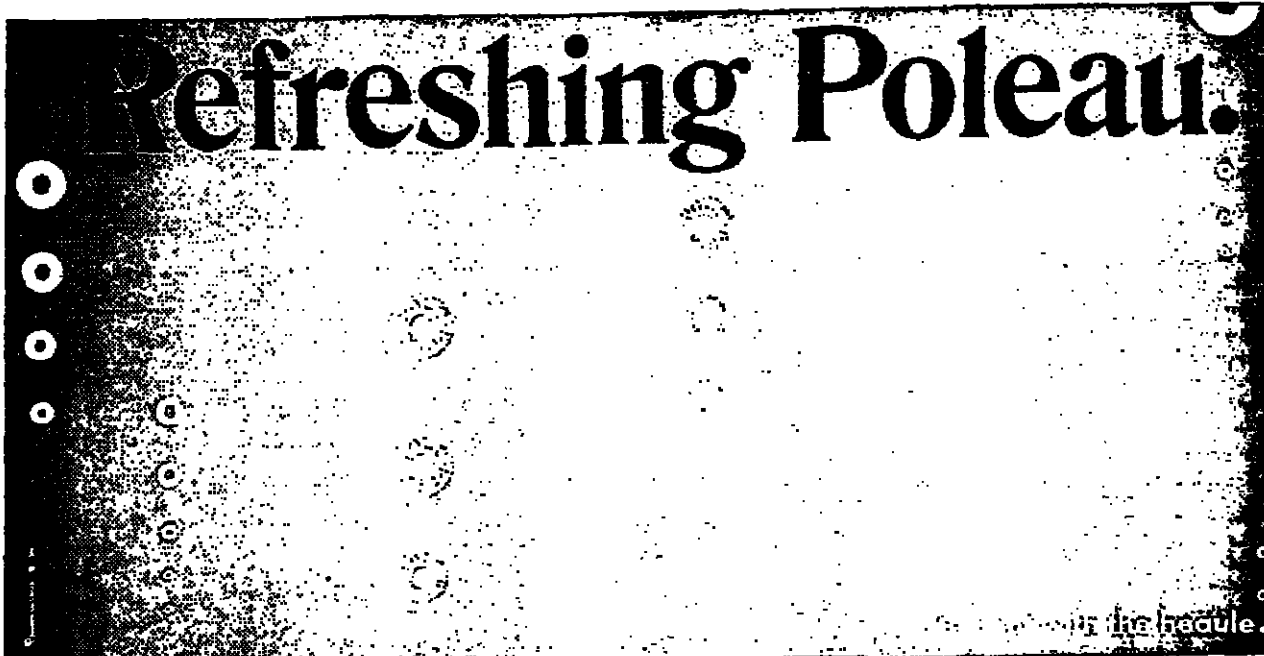
coverage and, through the processing of the entry forms, an impressive mailing list. Michael Blunt, a spokesman for BA, says that there are no immediate plans to sell the lists on. However, Robert Mayes, editor of *Precision Marketing*, says the competition forms did not ask for enough information to make the lists valuable. "BA asked people to write how often they flew, and it might be possible to target frequent flyers that way, but it won't be of great worth," he says.

## Sally Brompton reports on the commercials that pay homage to other advertisements

The bubbles floating up through the familiar green-blue bottle are shaped like that well-known mint with a hole. "Refreshing Poleau," the poster's slogan, takes a dig at the verbal puns of the Perrier advertisements, making the observer a collaborator in an innocuous little game.

Parody or plagiarism? Whatever the verdict, the advertising industry appears to be indulging in it with increasing regularity, a commercial narcissism which begs the viewer to join in the joke.

We have had the Hamlet advertisement which features the Andromeda paper puppet running out from under the lavatory door, leaving the paperless victim with only his cigar for comfort; the Heineken commercial in which the Dulux old English sheepdog does the painting while his master has a lager; the Carling Black Label laundrette sketch where the young man peels off his jeans in the Levis manner; the Harp lager lampoon of the Gold Blend love story in which the tea-making neighbour's pet dog follows a tail, thrown by



Kan, for an original idea: Perrier believes it may have benefited as much as Poleau from the advertisement for the mints

the lover-in-waiting, out of a high window.

Then there are the more subtle digs, such as Volkswagen's slogan for its new catalytic Polo - "It Won't Take Your Breath Away" - which follows Peugeot's "Takes Your Breath Away", and the woman pulling on her gloves in the commercial for Cadbury's Inspirations in a manner reminiscent of the intrepid Milk Tray man.

The advertising agencies for both VW and Cadbury deny any connection between their creations and those of their competitors. "Does it say that? Surely not," says Peter Clay, group account director

for Volkswagen at the BMP DDP Needham agency. "I suppose there was a slight homage to Peugeot... but I don't think it was designed to steal a march on them." Perish the thought.

Mr Clay has noticed that this form of "homage" is occurring "more now than it has done in the past". There are, however, inherent dangers in the practice. "More often than not, the person whose line it is, who is being sent up, is the one who benefits because the line is being passed into folklore," Mr Clay says.

He warns, however, that if the product being advertised

is not as well established as the one being parodied, it can come off worst. Some advertisers believe this has happened with the current Canon copier advertisement which shows an expanse of copies of a photograph of a VW beneath the slogan, "Some Things In Life Are As Reliable As A Volkswagen".

"You can only do it if the line or image is sufficiently strong to make people feel warm towards the rip-off advertiser," Mr Clay says. "And it is only legitimate if it is done well and with some humour." It is not just British advertisers, however, who are indulging in this cross-fertilisation of

ideas. In the United States, complete characters are being transported from one commercial to another.

A current television commercial for A&W diet cream soda stars Madge the manicurist, who became famous in America advertising Palmolive dishwashing liquid. In the A&W advertisement she keeps ruining the filming of the commercial by plonking her hands in a glass of cream soda. Asked why she does it by the frustrated director she replies, weakly: "I have no idea." The camera then pulls back to reveal her Palmolive identity.

In Britain, honour and the

Independent Television Commission demand that advertisers can parody other advertisements only with the mission of that product manufacturer. Perrier had right of veto over the advertisement up until final artwork stage. And Perrier believes that the mint water may have benefited from the campaign as much as the mints.

Kate Farara, director in charge of the Rowntree count - the mix of Polo - at J. Walter Thompson, the advertising agency does not believe that parodies are an indication of the industry is running or ideas, but "a sign that the advertising can become of the popular culture in the same way as a comedian or cartoon character can. It's a sign of feeling a very advertising-like public that you can play games and people will reward them."

While denying any deliberate parody of the milk campaign, Charles Hes joint creator of the nations commercial at I Bogle Hegarty, says: "I know what goes on in subconscious. But I am unhappy about that because we have done a witty reversal of Milk. I think what is dangerous with this sort of thing is advertising starts eating its own tail. And sometimes just run the risk of doing a joke for the industry."

## Are we fair to the French?

Our neighbours across the Channel take a more balanced view of us than we do of them

second part, on French reporting of the British, was written by Jean-Claude Fontaine and Eric Beal, of the Centre for Journalism Studies in Paris.

In contrast to our often glib reporting of France, the French reporting of us was fair and balanced. They are also remarkably tolerant of our outbursts and willing to mock themselves. In November, after the *Sun* had published the headline "Up yours, Delors" - an attack on Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission -

one French newspaper replied: "Roastbeef, the Frog goes you." The report also found that during the Tory leadership crisis French newspapers showed an impressive understanding of the political situation.

Britain's Paris-based correspondents told Ms Christmas that their coverage of domestic politics had not been that extensive during the period of the survey because it had been a dull period. However, Ms Christmas argues that even when significant political stories, such as a



Sniping: a headline from the *Sun*

sniping motion faced by Michel Rocard, the prime minister, merited good coverage, some papers covered it in a "cursory manner".

The *Times*, for example, did not mention the story until two days

before the vote, and the day devoted just three paragraphs to it. M Rocard had survived, even if it was the ninth such in a row.

When we praise France, usually for their education transport systems and rural political system. How while the French are magnanimous in their reporting of British pe they are still prone to enforce clichés. An article in the *ma L'Express* on November 22 of the three main classes of society, the "leisure" upper without material care, the "dane" middle class and a w class which could not escap had cockney accents.

NICHOLAS V  
As We See You was compiled by the International Press Foundation

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Please telephone Sue Dolan on 071 928 1700 your application form and for further details, and which region interests you. Closing date 15th April 1991.

Fairbridge Drake is striving to be an equal opportunities employer. The Fairbridge Drake Society is registered charity, number 204807.

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The Establishment Officer, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW (Tel. 071-219 3185). Completed forms should be returned by 7 May. Interviews will be held in June.

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## Court of Appeal

## Law Report April 3 1991

## Court of Appeal

## Plaintiff can pursue abuse claim

**Stubbings v Webb and Another**  
Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Bingham and Lord Justice Nolan  
[Judgment March 27]

A plaintiff who alleged that as a child she had been sexually abused by her adoptive father and raped by her adoptive brother and had suffered resultant mental illness and psychological disturbance was entitled to proceed with the action although the writ had not been issued until 12 years after she reached the age of majority and the claim was thus outside the limitation period.

The Court of Appeal, dismissing an appeal by the defendants, James Francis Webb and his son Stephen, and upholding a decision of Mr Justice Potter, held that the plaintiff, Lesley Jacqueline Stubbings, had not had the requisite knowledge about the significance and cause of her injuries until within three years of the issue of the writ and was thus entitled to pursue the claim under the provisions of sections 11 and 14 of the Limitation Act 1980.

Mr Justice Potter had overturned a decision of Master Topley that the plaintiff had had the requisite knowledge at an earlier date.

Mr Lawrence West for James Webb; Mr Roy Warne for Stephen Webb; Mr Robert Grey for the plaintiff.

**LORD JUSTICE BINGHAM** said that as the case had been decided below on affidavit evidence and the documents with-

out cross-examination the facts pleaded by the plaintiff could not be assumed to be true. It was emphasised that the Webb defendants denied the allegations against them. The court therefore had to draw such provisional inferences from the evidence as appeared to be fair.

Beginning with the claim against Mr Webb, on the assumption that the plaintiff's complaints were genuine, she knew of the acts complained of when they occurred and therefore within three years of her majority.

Did she then at any time before August 15, 1984, three years before issue of the writ, know (a) that the injury on which her action was founded was "significant" or (b) that such injury was attributable in whole or in part to the acts of Mr Webb?

The plaintiff could have sued for the immediate distress caused to her by the incidents but if such distress was regarded as a superficial emotional reaction without any long-term consequences the plaintiff would reasonably not have regarded it as sufficiently serious to justify proceedings.

The plaintiff did know three years before August 1984 that her mental condition was impaired sufficiently seriously to justify proceedings but the psychiatric evidence was that she did not know until September 1984, with the benefit of expert guidance, that she came to appreciate that there was a causal link between the acts of Mr Webb and her condition.

That knowledge of the causal link could be imputed to the plaintiff under section 14(3) of the Act. The plaintiff could not reasonably have been expected to acquire such knowledge from facts observable or ascertainable by her, since the mental impairment caused, as this allegedly was, almost necessarily produced a lack of insight and during the period in question there was not that general awareness among the public of the psychological effects of child abuse which certain well publicised events since then had caused.

There was no reason to differentiate between Stephen and Mr Webb so far as mental impairment was concerned. The Webb defendants argued that the acts alleged against them, if true, were of great seriousness and well known to the plaintiff at the date of commission. She had the knowledge necessary to sue on reaching her majority and should have either sued then or not at all.

It was not permissible to divide up the conduct complained of and treat the longer-term consequences as in effect giving rise to a different cause of action.

His Lordship saw considerable force in that submission but on the facts of the case it was unsound.

Sections 11(4)(b) and 14(1)(a) were tailored to meet the case where the plaintiff knew more than three years before bringing his action that he had suffered some injury but not an injury which was "significant" within the meaning of section 14(2). Whether a particular injury

would reasonably be regarded as significant by a particular plaintiff was a highly judgmental question.

The education of public opinion over the last five years or so, both as to the prevalence of child abuse within families and as to its serious long-term consequences, might well mean that almost any plaintiff would now reasonably regard such conduct, if other than trivial, as significant in the statutory sense.

But before the publicity given to the Cleveland enquiry the level of public and, even professional, understanding was much lower and claims by children on reaching their majority against parents and siblings were unknown.

Recognition that those acts had caused serious long-term mental impairment could reasonably be seen by the plaintiff as importing a new order of gravity.

To distinguish between the immediate impairment of the plaintiff's mental condition caused by those acts, apparently minor and transient, and the much more serious long-term impairment of the plaintiff's condition, the attribution of which to the Webb's conduct was only appreciated later, was to defeat the intention of the legislature but to promote it.

**LORD JUSTICE NOLAN** and Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Birkett Westhorp & Long, Colchester; Greenwood Page & Ward, Colchester; Fisher Jones, Colchester.

**Royce v Trust Ltd v Rogers and Others**  
Before Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson  
[Judgment March 21]

The measure of damages recoverable by a finance company against a car dealer for innocent misrepresentation under section 2(1) of the Misrepresentation Act 1967, after a customer had wrongfully sold a car subject to a hire-purchase agreement, was the measure of damages for fraudulent misrepresentation and not that for negligence, so that unforeseeable losses were recoverable provided they were not too remote.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments in dismissing an appeal by the dealer, Maidenhead Honda Centre Ltd, and allowing a cross-appeal by the finance company, Royce Trust Ltd, from an assessment of damages by Judge Barr in Uxbridge County Court on February 22, 1990, in Royce's action against the customer, Andrew Jeffrey Rogers, for damages for conversion and/or misrepresentation and against the dealer for damages for misrepresentation. A judgment in respect of the dealer's claim for damages for negligent misrepresentation was entered in default.

The customer did not appeal. Section 2 of the 1967 Act provided that where a person has entered into a contract after a misrepresentation has been made to him by another party thereto and as a result thereof he has suffered loss, then, if the person making the misrepresentation would be liable to damages in respect thereof had the misrepresentation been made fraudulently, that person shall be so liable notwithstanding that the misrepresentation was not made fraudulently.

Mr M. K. I. Kennedy, who did not appear below, for the dealer; Mr Neville Spencer-Lewis, who did not appear below, for Royce.

**LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE** said that the customer agreed with the dealer to buy on hire purchase a second-hand car for £7,600, of which a deposit of £1,200 was to be paid.

Royce, which financed hire-purchase sales in the usual way by purchasing the car from the dealer and entering into a hire-purchase agreement with the customer, had a policy that it would not accept a hire-purchase transaction unless the deposit represented at least 20 per cent of the total price.

£2,774.76, dishonestly sold the car to a private purchaser who acquired a good title under the provisions of the Hire Purchase Act 1964.

It was not alleged that the dealer's misrepresentation was fraudulent, and Royce claimed against the dealer damages for innocent misrepresentation. The judge assessed those damages at £1,600, on a basis, which neither side sought to uphold, involving a hypothetical sale of the car.

In the appeal and cross-appeal, the dealer claimed that the correct figure was nil, and Royce that it was £3,625.24, the difference between £6,400 which it paid to the dealer and the total price of the car.

There was at one time some doubt whether the measure of damages for an innocent misrepresentation under the 1967 Act was the tortious measure, so as to put him in the position he would have been in if the representation had been true, thus in some cases giving rise to a claim for damages for loss of bargain.

It was now generally accepted, and it was his Lordship's view, that the tortious measure was the correct one, but the first issue was whether it was the measure of damages for negligent misrepresentation or for negligence at common law.

**LORD JUSTICE GIBSON** said that the dealer's claim for damages for negligent misrepresentation was entered in default.

**LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE** said that the dealer's claim for damages for negligent misrepresentation was entered in default.

The difference was that in cases of fraud a plaintiff was entitled to any loss which flowed directly from the defendant's fraud, even if the loss could not have been foreseen: *Douglas v. Oilfield (Transporters) Ltd* (1969) 2 QB 158.

The opinion expressed in the textbooks was that unforeseeable losses were not recoverable in an action under section 2(1), but that was inconsistent with certain decided cases and with the clear meaning of the subsection: the words "so as to put him in the position he would have been in if the representation had been true" made the measure of damages as if the representation had been made fraudulently.

It followed that Royce was entitled to recover from the dealer all the losses which it suffered as a result of entering into the agreements with the dealer and the customer, even if those losses were unforeseeable, provided that they were not otherwise too remote.

The question of foreseeability arose again in connection with another issue: whether the wrongful sale of the car was a *novus actus interveniens* which broke the chain of causation.

It was submitted that while it was foreseeable that a hire-purchase customer might default in the payment of his instalments, a dealer could not be reasonably expected to foresee that the customer would wrongfully dispose of the car, particularly in the present case where the customer was appar-

ently reputable, being a young married man in employment.

That submission ignored both the reality of the transaction and general experience. While it was true that the car remained the property of the hire-purchase company until the last instalment was paid, in practice the purchaser was placed in effective control of the car and treated it as his own.

Moreover, there had been so many cases, both civil and criminal, of persons wrongfully disposing of cars bought on hire purchase, that their Lordships could take judicial notice that that was an all too frequent occurrence.

The dealer should reasonably have foreseen the possibility that the customer might wrongfully sell the car, and the sale was not a *novus actus interveniens*.

For those and other reasons the appeal should be dismissed and the cross-appeal allowed.

**LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON**, concurring, said that it was necessary for Royce to prove that the loss it suffered was reasonably foreseeable by the dealer as a consequence of the dealer's negligent misrepresentation, which was intended to, and did, induce Royce to enter into the two contracts, it was in the circumstances clearly foreseeable.

Solicitors: Barrett & Thompson, Slough; Edge & Ellison, Birmingham.

## Application of hearsay rule obscured the truth

**Regina v Beckford and Another**  
Although a co-defendant's confession had properly been ruled inadmissible, the truth had nevertheless been obscured and the appellants' convictions for murder had to be quashed.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Allott and Mr Justice Cresswell) so held on March 21 in allowing appeals by Andrew John Beckford and Norman Washington Daley against their convictions at the Central Criminal Court (Mr

Justice Auld and a jury) on February 23, 1989 for murder. Other associated convictions and sentences were upheld.

**LORD JUSTICE WATKINS** said that the trial judge had ruled that a third defendant's confession that he had knifed the victim was not admissible because the police should have ensured that a solicitor was present when he had made that confession.

Counsel for Daley sought leave to cross-examine the officers concerned about the confession in order to support Daley's case that it was the third defendant, not Daley, who had knifed the victim.

The judge ruled that to introduce the confession in the course of the prosecution case, except through cross-examination of the third defendant, would offend against the hearsay rule.

The court did not criticise that exercise of the judge's discretion but the consequences of excluding it were very severe. The hearsay rule was capable sometimes of obscuring the truth.

In saying that it was just as likely that witnesses could mistakenly think that the appellant was not the robber, the judge had seriously detracted from the value of that evidence to the defence.

**JUSTICE GLIDWELL** said that while the learned trial judge had given

a *Smith v. Turnbull* direction (1977) QB 224, 229, the situation in the instant case was quite the reverse because the appellant had not been identified as the robber by any of the witnesses.

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## Council licence fees not for raising revenue

**Regina v Manchester City Council, Ex parte Donald King**  
Before Lord Justice Nolan and Mr Justice Roch  
[Judgment March 27]

A local authority was not empowered to raise revenue generally by means of street trading licences under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. The purpose of the Act was to control street trading. Fees had to be assessed in relation to the cost of administering and controlling the street trading scheme.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an application by Donald King, as representative of the Manchester City Street Traders Association, for judicial review to quash decisions made by Manchester City Council to increase its street trading licence fees.

Paragraph 9 of the fourth schedule to the 1982 Act provides: "(1) A district council may charge such fees as they consider reasonable for the grant or renewal of a street

trading licence or a street trading consent."

Mr Paul Stinchcombe for Mr King; Mr Charles Cross for the council.

**MR JUSTICE ROCH** said that on March 7, 1990, Manchester City Council resolved that the fee for a street trading licence in the centre of the city should range from £1,000 to £2,500 a year. The annual fee for 1988 and 1989 had been £169. In 1987, £32 had been charged while in 1986 £30 had been levied.

However, the local authority was not confined to the cost of issuing licences. It might take

into account the costs which it would incur in operating its street trading scheme, including the prosecution of those who traded in the streets without licences.

In addition the council in making its decisions failed to have any regard to the level of fees charged prior to March 31, 1990. The decisions would be quashed.

**LORD JUSTICE NOLAN** delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Aubrey Isaacson & Co, Manchester; Mr Roy Ingham, Manchester.

Mr Cross submitted that a local authority was under a fiduciary duty to its chargepayers to maximise its income, that the council had had regard to market forces in fixing the fees and that that was not unlawful.

His Lordship said that it would be surprising if Parliament had intended to include a general revenue raising provision in a schedule which dealt solely with street trading.

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# Time running out in the pursuit of excellence

WITH Mark Robins scoring the goal which put Manchester United into the FA Cup final last season, and John Ebbrell in such bright form for Everton, the graduates of the GM Vauxhall FA National School are beginning to make an impact. Whether they are making enough of one to save the school, whose future after six years is now a matter for some debate, is doubtful.

The school has been caught up in the general dissatisfaction with the way young players are being produced, which persuaded the Football League to set up its own sub-committee to investigate the process last autumn.

The problem is clearly a much wider one, but the school's high profile and cost, an estimated £200,000 a year, has left it vulnerable. The League's presentation to the Football Association in December, *One Game, One Team, One Voice*, put the matter baldly. The school does not have the support of everyone, including a number of clubs, schools and parents.

In some instances, that underpins the resistance. The failure of the England team made up of Lillishall students which took part in an international tournament in Genoa last autumn sharpened the criticism inside the professional game.

"We were in the weakest group

## PETER BALL begins a two-part examination of English football's school of excellence: Is it paying its way?

with Spain, France and Austria, and we lost all three matches," Bill Fox, the president of the League, said. "But the main thing was that it was apparent that the members of the other teams in the two groups were better instructed than ours."

How much the school is to blame is questionable. Fox specifically refrained from criticising the school's work. "It is the concept which is wrong, not the people in charge," he said.

There is little doubt that in many cases the early resistance by clubs has been changed by experience, although the sight of two of the present intake—Jamie Forrester and Kevin Sharp—joining a French club, Auxerre, has rekindled some antagonism.

Steve Burtenshaw, who is in charge of Arsenal's outstanding youth programme, said he would have no reservations if parents and boys decided to accept a place at Lillishall for two years rather than staying within the Arsenal system, and Alex Ferguson, the manager of Manches-

ter United, was similarly positive. "I still feel the idea is a good one," Burtenshaw said. "We've had a dozen lads there, and no complaints at all. They've all been well tutored, their discipline is good, they've worked hard."

Among the dozen is Alan Miller, the England Under-21 goalkeeper. "It gave me a great start," Miller said. "It is like doing an apprenticeship, and it prepares you for all the things you find at a club. As a goalkeeper, it was a special benefit, because we had specialised coaching."

Nor did Miller's academic work suffer. "My parents were a bit worried when I first went, but I finished with five O-levels, so I probably did better there than I would have at home," he said.

Ferguson said: "It's easy to nitpick, but the criticisms really are no more than that. The ideology is fine—they're trying to get a perfect world down there. If I have any reservation, it is that their products are perhaps too disciplined. Going away from home and their friends, they've missed part of growing up and so they perhaps lack a bit of cunning, a bit of devilishness which you need on the park. These boys are coming from a perfect world where there are no bad tackles and no swearing." But for all the positive testimony,



Ebbrell: now making his mark

what is unarguable is that the original concept of a national centre of excellence, for elite young players who would be putting their first footprints on a ladder leading to the England team, is not being realised, and probably cannot be.

Now aged 21, the 24 graduates from the first intake in 1984 should be making their mark at the top of the professional game. Apart from Ebbrell, the England Under-21 captain, few are.

For all his undoubted goal-scoring ability, Robins is still only on the fringe of the United team. Others are either making time in the reserves, like Miller and Jason Beckford, of Manches-



Miller: reaping the benefit

ter City, or playing for smaller clubs, like Ian Chapman, of Brighton, Darren Fitcher, of Charlton Athletic, and Steve Walters, of Crewe Alexandra. Some are out of the game entirely, through injury, failure to make the grade or, in at least one case, a decision that professional football was not for him.

Of the 81 players who have graduated since 1984, 51 signed professional forms with League clubs and 27 have played in the first team. Between them they have won 33 England youth and six under-21 international caps. "They haven't produced any superstars," Ferguson said, "but then you look at the percentages

for producing players. Norman Whiteside was probably the last player in that category that this club produced.

"Arsenal have had a great cycle — Thomas, Rocastle, Merson, Adams, a great bunch — but they may never get that number through again. So you have to examine the school in the context of the percentage of young players who come through at a club."

Arsenal, in fact, have a long record of success in producing players for their first team since the days of Bertie Mee. Now a Watford director, he took up Ferguson's point with an analysis of his ten years at Highbury.

"We would watch 80,000 players a year," Mee said. "Of that number, we would invite 40 to the club to have a look at them. Of that 40, ten would become apprentices. And one every two years would go on to become a first-division player. In other words, we got one player out of 160,000 seen."

By those standards, the National School's success rate is reasonable, even if the school is getting the pick of the crop. And, of course, it is not. Lee Sharpe, who did not go to the school, is making more impact than Robins for Manchester United. Other cases are even more telling.

Some clubs will persuade boys and parents that they are better

off staying at home. But it is not just sabotage. Many boys do not want to leave home at that age, and many parents are reluctant for them to do so, preferring them to stay at the local club and local school.

There is also the problem of selecting potential international players at 14. Among current England internationals, some would probably have been overlooked: Peter Beardsley and Gary Lineker were late developers who were not even under-21 internationals, let alone capped at youth level, while the parks, recreation grounds and non-League clubs of the country are full of those who never made it.

The question remains whether the National School is the way to end that wastage. So far, the evidence is inconclusive.

"It is disappointing to see so many of the players I was at Lillishall with dropping out," Miller said. "But a few are still coming, through it. I don't take time, and I'm sure that with the international experience I gained, I got more from going there than from being an associated school-boy at my club."

## TOMORROW

Where is the next generation coming from?

# Celtic savour Cup semi-final with traditional relish

By RODDY FORSYTH

AN ADDED piquancy was bestowed on both of this season's Scottish Cup semi-final ties when it was realised that a quirk of the League fixture schedule meant that the combatants, Celtic and Dundee, would meet each other in two consecutive matches, first in the Premier division and then in the Cup.

It was natural that each team should hope to gain a psychological advantage with victory in the league encounter, but it was surprising that only Motherwell emerged with a win last weekend.

Their victory over Celtic, a more impressive because it was at Parkhead, is not easy to view in perspective because the distorted context in which it was achieved. Celtic, after all, had disposed of Rangers in the previous round and followed up their cup win with a further defeat of their old Firm rivals a week later.

After two contests of such intensity of emotion and motivation, it was perhaps understandable that there could be a sense of anti-climax for the visit of Motherwell and in any case, Celtic pose to rest such key players as McStay, Wdowczyk and Miller, all of whom will return to the starting selection this evening at Hampden Park.

So powerful is Celtic's traditional relish for this competition and so great their affinity with the national stadium, that Saturday's defeat as already been discounted by their supporters and prob-

ably by most neutrals, too. However, Motherwell's hopes of reaching the final are not without substance.

In their four league meetings with Celtic this season they have won two and drawn one, and on Saturday they were also without a number of their principal players such as Russell, Paterson and Cusack. They were also obliged to perform without Cooper, their most creative forward, but they cannot hope for his return this evening because the suspension which kept him out at the weekend is also in force tonight. Cooper has great cause to regret the display of dissent against Morton in the quarter-final replay which has ruled out his contribution this evening.

Celtic retreated yesterday to their favoured base at Seannill on the Clyde estuary, where Billy McNeill, the Parkhead manager, said: "My players are under no illusions about the quality of their performance on Saturday. There was no excuse for it and there will be no repeat because Motherwell have demonstrated that they are capable of playing well against us and are quite capable of taking advantage of complacency on our part."

"They will face a different Celtic team when they step out at Hampden."

Exactly what that team will be is not yet clear because McNeill intends to conceal his selection until shortly before the kick-off, but fitness permitting, the most likely permutation is Bonner, Wdowczyk, Whyte, Elliott, Rogan,

McNally, McStay, Collins, Miller, Creaney, Coyne.

The rewards of victory tonight are particularly appealing for Celtic. After a miserable run of poor form until the turn of the year they have revived the likelihood that they will play in Europe next season and the most obvious route is through the Cup Winners' Cup. The consequence of defeat would be to restore much of the mid-season gloom and that possibility alone can be relied upon to galvanise both the players and their raucous and committed supporters.

For one Motherwell player, meanwhile, two cup finals beckon. If Motherwell win, Tom Boyd will lead his side out at Hampden Park on May 18. If the Fir Park team lose, it may be that he will move speedily to Nottingham Forest. Forest are in the semi-finals of the FA Cup and Boyd would be eligible to play for them.

□ Hugo Sánchez, the Mexican forward, may have played his last game for Real Madrid, the ailing Spanish champions. Sánchez has an ankle injury which could rule him out until the end of the season and is reported to be planning to leave the club when his contract expires in June.

Sánchez, aged 32, the joint winner of the European Golden Boot award after 38 Spanish league goals last season, is considering offers from Italian, French and Swiss clubs. The Spanish press named Fiorentina and Torino as his top options.



Homeward-bound: Maradona escorted through Rome airport, on his way home to Argentina

# Smith favoured to succeed Ardiles

By LOUISE TAYLOR

SWINDON Town are expected to name today the manager to succeed Osvaldo Ardiles, who departed for Newcastle United on Saturday.

Jim Smith, Ardiles' predecessor at Newcastle, is the favourite, but Glenn Hoddle, the former Tottenham Hotspur, Monaco, and England midfielder player is also in contention.

Tony Calvin, formerly the assistant manager who will be in charge of Swindon until an appointment is made—at which point he will re-join Ardiles on Tyneside—said yesterday: "I have recommended Glenn to the board. The board has brought to the chairman, I know Glenn from our playing days at Tottenham, and a big

name would be good for the club.

"Swindon, and the supporters, need a fresh face. Everybody at the club needs some sort of lift, and Glenn would fit that need. In fact he is the only one who fits Swindon's needs. It depends whether he is interested. I think he is."

Hoddle, aged 33, whose career is in jeopardy after a series of knee injuries, is in light training with Chelsea, and has bought a home in Berkshire.

Meanwhile the experienced Smith, who is aged 50 and a former manager of Oxford United, is coaching at Woodstock, 30 miles from

Swindon, and would relish a return to the area. He has described the prospect of a move to Wiltshire as "ideal", adding: "I am not old enough or rich enough to retire yet."

Ardiles yesterday said he hoped Calvin would join him within "the next 48 hours."

□ Trevor Morley aims to declare himself fit this week for West Ham's FA Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest. Morley will have a full reserve outing against Wimbledon at Upton Park on tomorrow night, desperate to earn a recall to the first team at Port Vale on Saturday.

The Hammers' top scorer hit two goals in a first-half appear-

ance for West Ham's reserves in the 5-1 win over Oxford reserves last Saturday as his recovery from stab wounds continued ahead of schedule.

Morley said today: "I took it pretty quietly and did not try to do too much but I was satisfied with how things went. I had no problems at all from the injury. Now I hope to get a full 90 minutes against Wimbledon and if I am all right after that I will declare myself fit."

"It's then up to the manager when and where I play next."

Morley has missed West Ham's last eight games since being taken to hospital after being stabbed twice at his home in Loughton last month.

## SNOOKER

# Reynolds goes out to James

From STEVE ACTON  
IN COFFS CO KILDARE

DEAN Reynolds, the world No. 8 from Grimsby, made a disappointing debut in the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters here yesterday when he was beaten 5-2 by Steve James, who progressed to a quarter-final meeting on Friday with Steve Davis, the defending champion.

Reynolds, aged 28, had watched the Embassy world championship qualifying event in Preston on Monday night instead of travelling to Ireland. He overslept yesterday, missing his early-morning flight from Manchester, and then had to take a shuttle to Heathrow for a later flight. He even changed into his dress suit on the aircraft.

After a 30-minute drive from Dublin airport, he was 14 minutes late into the arena and forfeited the first frame. A minute later he would have forfeited two.

Reynolds said later: "I have a serious drink problem. I've got to do something about it with the world championships so close, but I just don't know who to turn to."

Reynolds, who has twice previously been warned for slow play at the world championships, said: "What happened there really got to me and I just turned to drink. I'll get through it, but it's been going on too long. I'm drinking beer and through matches. I've let myself down here, and the public. I've been totally abusing my ability."

The tournament director, Kevin Norton, said of Reynolds' late arrival: "It's very disappointing. The players are guaranteed £165,000 (£3,400) just for turning up, and they are also asked to arrive the day before their matches—it was the least Dean could have done."

He would not say whether he would ask the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association to take disciplinary action against Reynolds.

RESULTS: Preliminary round: S. James (Eng) 5-2 D. Reynolds (Eng), 5-2.

## IN BRIEF

# Elliott's opener

ETER Elliott, the Commonwealth Games 1,500 metres champion, will start his British season with a mile race in the general Portofino festival of road running at Gstaad on May 6.

His opponents will include Ed Hordfield, the AAA 1,500 metres champion, and the 1987 inner of this race, Steve Crabbe.

ABLE TENNIS: England's team will meet the holders, Sweden, and Korea, in the semi-finals of the world championships for the visiting Cup in Chiba City, Japan, from April 24 to May 2.

ACHTING: Rothmans, the hithead maxi skipper by wrie Smith, won the biennial a Fernando race, from Hong Kong to the Philippines, in his Ozamint more than 14 hrs inside the record.

CKEY: England, winners a year, won the under-18 100yds bronze medal in the nations tournament at Mulm, France. The under-16s re fourth at Düsseldorf.

SEBALL: Dwight Gooden, cher with the New York icks, has signed a three-year contract worth \$25 million.

CROSSIE: The Combined Universities team defeated England Under-19 17-9 at yterley, Cheshire, on Mon.

The 11 universities involved are forming a league league.

KING: Kevin Pritchard, the ar British speed featheright champion from rpool, will challenge Daniel as for the European title in ice on April 26.

## SWIMMING

# Sheppard breaks record

By CRAIG LORD

ALISON Sheppard clocked 25.78sec to take 0.12sec off her British record, in the final of the 50 metres freestyle at the Edinburgh International yesterday.

She was edged out by Eugenia Gramatova, of the Soviet Union, who won £100 for her victory.

Spurred on by a £500 prize for breaking the record, Sheppard, aged 18, of Milngavie and Bearsden, laid down a clear challenge to foreign rivals by clocking 25.96sec in her heat. She had come within two tenths of a second of the record five times in as many months.

"I've come so close to it so

many times now," she said. "I was really psyched up."

Sheppard said the prize money was a "great incentive to do well". A record would also be a great start to her new sponsorship, £2,500 over three years.

Paraflores, Sheppard is, sadly, one of only few Scots taking part to the disappointment of organisers, who have worked hard to bring some of the world's top swimmers to the Scottish capital to boost enthusiasm for the sport at home.

Ermakova and Ellen Elsermann, of the Netherlands, presented the biggest threat to Sheppard in the heats.

Ermakova, a tall 14-year-old, was second to Andrea Nugent at Sheffield at the weekend, and dead-headed with Sheppard in the heats yesterday.

Five of the world's top sprinters line up for the final of the 50 metres freestyle, among them Nils Radolph, the world record holder from Germany, Mike Fibbens, the British, and Vladimir Predkin, the Soviet who beat them both at Sheffield.

At the Royal Commonwealth pool yesterday, all eight finalists swam under 24 seconds and just two tenths of a second separated the top five.

## SQUASH RACKETS

# Harris given chance to show off

From COLIN MCQUILLAN IN PARIS

DEL Harris was granted an immediate opportunity here yesterday to justify a return to the top of the English rankings that other players have been puzzled by.

Harris gained effortless access to a second round match in the French Open championships tomorrow against Jansher Khan, the world champion, when Jamie Hickox, of Canada, withdrew from their first round encounter after two games with knee ligament problems.

Harris will want to display all his wares against the world champion to counter the recent performances of Peter Marshall, whom he displaced from the No. 1 spot on the new England

list issued by the Squash Rackets Association this week, and Simon Parke, the junior world champion.

The two teenagers collected a haul of scalps in Glasgow last week after Harris lost in the second round of the Scottish Open. Marshall defeated Harris in the Welsh first round last month and Parke reached the national final in January.

Marshall appears here today against Adrian Davies, the Welsh No. 1, with a possible second round against Rodney Martin, the Australian world No. 5, whom Parke defeated on merit last week.

Confusion over entry dates by his father means Parke is not

entered here, which may allow Harris some room in which to re-establish his credentials.

The French have not organised their entries too well. Their finest player, Julien Bonetier, was forced to play in the qualifying tournament, and lost to Mark Cairns, of England, while the championship wild card was given to Austin Adarnaga, a Spanish-registered Australian.

RESULTS: First round: Matt Jansher Khan (Can) 5-1 P. Kanyon (Eng), 15-11, 15-13, 15-9; D. Harris (Eng) 15-11, 15-13, 15-9; S. Parke (Wel) 15-11, 15-13, 15-9; J. Bonetier (Fra) 15-11, 15-13, 15-9.

## FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

WORLD LEAGUE (WAPL): Montreal Machine 15-10; San Antonio 10-15; Portland 10-15.

North American East Division

Orlando	W	15-10
Montreal	W	15-10
San Antonio	L	10-15
Portland	L	10-15

North American West Division

San Antonio	W	15-10
Portland	W	15-10
Orlando	L	10-15
Montreal	L	10-15

European Division

San Antonio	W	15-10
Portland	W	15-10
Orlando	L	10-15
Montreal	L	10-15

BASKETBALL

SEMI-FINALS: United States 72-68; Canada 68-72.

BASEBALL

SEMI-FINALS: Montreal Machine 15-10; San Antonio 10-15; Portland 10-15.

BASEBALL

SEMI-FINALS: Montreal Machine 15-10; San Antonio 10-15; Portland 10-15.

BOXING

SEMI-FINALS: Montreal Machine 15-10; San Antonio 10-15; Portland 10-15.

CURLING

WORLD CUP: Canada 15-10; Scotland 10-15; Norway 10-15; Sweden 10-15.

CYCLING

WORLD CUP: Canada 15-10; Scotland 10-15; Norway 10-15; Sweden 10-15.

FOOTBALL

WORLD CUP: Canada 15-10; Scotland 10-15; Norway 10-15; Sweden 10-15.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

WORLD CUP: Canada 15-10; Scotland 10-15; Norway 10-15; Sweden 10-15.

FOOTBALL

WORLD CUP: Canada 15-10; Scotland 10-15; Norway 10-15; Sweden 10-15.

ICE HOCKEY

WORLD CUP: Canada 15-10; Scotland 10-15; Norway 10-15; Sweden 10-15.

MOTOR SPORT

WORLD CUP: Canada 15-10; Scotland 10-15; Norway 10-15; Sweden 10-15.

RUSSIAN

WORLD CUP: Canada 15-10; Scotland 10-15; Norway 10-15; Sweden 10-15.

GOLF

WORLD RANKINGS: 1. R. Phil (Eng), 15-10; 2. J. Wadsworth (Eng), 15-10; 3. D. Hordfield (Eng), 15-10; 4. A. Gooden (Eng), 15-10; 5. S. Crabbe (Eng), 15-10; 6. S. Pritchard (Eng), 15-10; 7. S. Pritchard (Eng), 15-10; 8. S. Pritchard (Eng), 15-10; 9. S. Pritchard (Eng), 15-10; 10. S. Pritchard (Eng), 15-10.

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REAL TENNIS

WORLD RANKINGS: 1. R. Phil (Eng), 15-10; 2. J. Wadsworth (Eng), 15-10; 3. D. Hordfield (Eng), 15-10; 4. A. Gooden (Eng), 15-10; 5. S. Crabbe (Eng), 15-10; 6. S. Pritchard (Eng), 15-10; 7. S. Pritchard (Eng), 15-10; 8. S. Pritchard (Eng), 15-10; 9. S. Pritchard (Eng), 15-10; 10. S. Pritchard (Eng), 15-10.

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Popular claim

More than 9,000 people attended the opening event of the 1991 biffing season in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, prompting organisers to claim that biffing is regaining popularity in the country.

Bryant named

Simon Bryant, who is in his first full season of Heineken League rugby, has been nominated as

مركزا من راحل



# THE TIMES

## SPORT

● GOLF 34  
● RACING 35  
● CRICKET 36

### Arsenal feel no stress as they step up the pace

By LOUISE TAYLOR

ARSENAL have the opportunity tonight to open up a five-point lead over Liverpool at the top of the first division. Victory over Aston Villa at Highbury would leave Arsenal in a powerful position with seven games outstanding for Liverpool and themselves. They could also increase the margin to eight points with victory at Sheffield United on Saturday while Liverpool have the weekend off.

George Graham, the Arsenal manager, could afford to appear relaxed yesterday when he said: "Pressure, what pressure? There is a lot of talk about pressure but I do not believe any of it. We are all nice and relaxed."

"Sometimes you just have to go out there, forget everything else and simply enjoy your football. That is the way we are trying to approach it."

Graham, recently on management and public relations courses for high-flyers, lessened the risk of stress by avoiding watching Liverpool's Easter Monday defeat at Southampton on television.

He concentrated on a more immediate sphere of influence by watching Sheffield United losing at Nottingham Forest. However, Graham, whose double-chasing team faces Tottenham Hotspur in an FA Cup semi-final at

Wembley on Sunday week, refused to scale down the magnitude of the threat posed by Liverpool.

"I hear Liverpool made a lot of chances without any luck at Southampton," he said. "We certainly do not think the title race is over. There are a lot of points to be won and lost before anything is decided."

The prize on offer to Aston Villa is almost as enticing, albeit for different reasons. Although they have games in hand, Villa, who at this point last season were themselves contesting the championship with Liverpool, are fourth from bottom, and only six points removed from a relegation position.

David Platt, Villa's England midfielder, said yesterday: "We need the points just as urgently as Arsenal. It came as a shock when I saw that we were fourth from bottom of the table. Arsenal can be sure that we will do them no favours."

"I recall that last season we were in the position compared to Liverpool that Arsenal are in now. So in our position today we need the psychological lift that a win at Highbury would bring."

For all his talk about "enjoying our football", Graham is not about to allow Arsenal to compromise their

characteristic professionalism against Villa. Briefly permitting a hint of burning ambition to slip out from behind the unruffled, smiling facade, he said: "At this stage of the season, a win is worth more than anything. I am looking for a good, professional performance."

"It will be hard because Villa have rallied after a poor start to the season and they have David Platt back after injury, so we will have to take the game to them."

Graham has added Michael Thomas and David O'Leary to the 13 on duty for the 2-0 win at Derby County on Saturday. But he said: "I never talk about things like team changes before a match."

Arsenal's manager may not be in the business of making bold predictions, yet the book-makers believe that the title race is all but over.

William Hill offers odds of 2-9 against Arsenal clinching the championship, with Liverpool at 3-1.

The England forward, Chris Waddle, failed a fitness test yesterday and will miss Marseille's last match before they go to Moscow next week for the European Cup semi-final first leg against Spartak. Waddle injured an ankle in training and will miss the French Cup game with the second division side, Dijon.



Striking a considered pose: Hagler, the boxer turned actor, in London yesterday

### Hagler in quiet return

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

ALL was quiet yesterday for the return of the man who inspired a riot the last time he was here. Marvelous Marvin Hagler, the former world middleweight champion, whose victory over Alan Minter at Wembley 11 years ago was greeted with a shower of beer bottles and racist abuse, was back in the town he vowed never to visit again.

Hagler is here for another boxing match. This time to see his half-brother, Robbie Sims, against Nigel Benn at York Hall tonight. "I'm happy to be back here in England," he said. "People have been apologetic about what happened but that was in the past. I realise only a handful of people gave England a bad name. I am

here in support of my younger brother. No doubt about it England will see a very good match."

Hagler, who retired after his defeat by Sugar Ray Leonard three years ago, and now lives in Milan and acts in films, refuses to make a comeback in the ring. "I think retiring was very smart. It's a burning temptation to come back because boxing is something you've done all your life. It was my life, I walked it, talked it and that's what made me very successful. The hardest part is when you have to give up your love," he said. "When I gave up my boxing I went to my locker and cleaned it out. A tear came to my eye. It was a strange feeling."

"But I'm hoping the movie industry will put a new taste in my mouth. I think I accomplished everything I could accomplish in boxing. I fought the best fighters in the world and I am very proud that I never ducked anyone," he said.

The man who defended his world title 12 times and was the most feared fighter of the eighties, refuses to play a boxer in films. "I like films because I don't get punched," he said. "I don't want to get involved in boxing parts because I want to play a different character than myself. I'm not looking for an Oscar but I like what I do. I like the challenge. Every day is a challenge to keep your mind open."

### Sims shapes up for Benn

NIGEL Benn is back in the ring tonight. The old fusilier just refused to fade away after losing his world title to Chris Eubank last November (Srikumar Sen writes).

He wanted to return to the scene of his defeat, the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. But following "death threats" from some local citizens who did not like his battle cry of "No surrender," he retreated to the smaller York Hall.

So, at Bethnal Green where, as a wag said, more people have been murdered than at the NEC, Benn makes his stand against

Robbie Sims, a fading old stager trying to find his feet after a battle with drugs.

Sims, aged 30, a half-brother to Marvin Hagler, the former world middleweight champion, was a leading world contender for several years but is rated No. 30 in the latest World Boxing Council rankings. Despite wins over Ian Barkley, Doug DeWitt and Roberto Duran, he could never lift the world title, losing to Sumbu Kalambay, in 1988. It has been a hard slog for ten years.

Sims maintained that he had never had a drugs

problem in the same way that Tyrrell Biggs did. "I had coke here and coke there - I was drinking and partying but doesn't everyone do that?" Goody Petronelli, one of Sims' managers, said: "We told him three years ago 'shape up, or ship out'."

Yesterday, Sims certainly talked the same old good fight. "Benn is a dirty tactics fighter. He fights like a junkyard dog. Let him loose and you don't know what's going to happen. He's a wild man who comes straight out at you - and when you do that against me, you are running into a brick wall."

### Royle defends key behaviour of Oxford crew

By MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

STEVE Royle, the director of rowing for Oxford University, yesterday came to the defence of his crew's controversial behaviour after winning the 137th Boat Race on Saturday. Rupert Obholzer, the president, was seen to gesture at the Cambridge crew after the finish and some of his subsequent remarks prompted everything from raised eyebrows to fears for the future of amateur sport in Britain.

Royle's argument yesterday was based on the extra tensions created by the presence of television mini-cameras on the boats, positioned behind the coxswains' heads.

He said: "Cameras on boats pick up the private moments of athletes under immense pressures, as was seen on Saturday after the Oxford crew had given three hearty cheers for Cambridge and had not received the traditional response from the losing crew. This appears to have gone unnoticed, possibly due to the Cambridge on-board camera having broken down at the start."

Royle accepted that Obholzer's gesture was "inexcusable", but he added: "It was delivered out of frustration after a heroic performance which necessitated a monumental release of energy. At such a time, an athlete's mind does not fully focus on the interpretations of such actions by a number of egotistical journalists who have no contact whatsoever with the athletes, or indeed the sport, throughout the year and who are waiting for such incidents to provide controversial headlines."

Royle also questioned the use of a sports psychologist in the Boat Race. "It is widely known that Cambridge have employed such a person, Brian Miller, for the past two years in order to raise their confidence, which was considered to be low by their chief coach."

"I have been increasingly aware over the past 12 months of the growing tension and friction between Oxford and Cambridge when they have been brought together for various functions. I feel that the incident on Saturday may well have been the result of this new method of preparing athletes to perform at their peak. I have followed the past 14 Boat Races and have certainly witnessed similar gestures but both sides have accepted them."

Mark Lees, the Cambridge

chief coach, said yesterday that he had "no comment" about Oxford's behaviour after the race. "The process is not to get up hatred of the opponent but to make sure that the team performs at its very best. Build-up of aggression has nothing to do with it. It is the performance of the team that counts."

Defending his use of sports psychologist, Lees is retiring from the post. "The process is not to get up hatred of the opponent but to make sure that the team performs at its very best. Build-up of aggression has nothing to do with it. It is the performance of the team that counts."

He said that his pay was also involved in javelin throwers and shot runners, where ski training were paramount.

Obholzer was back in at Henley yesterday, with other members of national squad. Commending his actions at the Boat Race, he said: "I did it, but it is just an exaggeration of what has always been there. I board camera showed more and thrust it into one's faces. The nature of the event is very personal."

Comparing the Boat Race with his international successes and future Obholzer added that "not such a one-crew Boat Race, you try to be your opposite man". He said that the press: "Cambridge's psychology 'motivated us as much as them'."

My view is that it is wrong to judge 18 students in an amateur sport, subjected to the press the goldfish bowl. Standards demanded leading performers in a professional sport who are dealing with them on a basis."

Royle: tensions cre

### McEnroe sick of own behaviour

AFTER years of being sick of tennis umpires, line judges, opponents, crowds and just about everything else, John McEnroe finally admitted yesterday he was sick of himself. He said his own bad behaviour could make him quit - unless the game's authorities threw him out first.

His confession came after he was within one warning of being defaulted from the Hong Kong Open as he slumped to a 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 defeat by unseeded Todd Witsken in the first round.

McEnroe was given a code violation for unsportsmanlike conduct followed by a point penalty from Gerry Armstrong, the umpire, for verbally abusing a linesman. "I am disappointed with

myself in a lot of ways. I continue reacting the way I feel my opponents are reacting. I feel my opponents are reacting the way I feel my opponents are reacting."

"I don't want to be playing this way. It just means me, not just the way I'm playing, but the way I'm reacting. It would not be difficult to turn things around but for some reason I seem to be able to do it."

"If I keep up like this I will probably get thrown before I stop. I will not have to that tough decision when I want to stop. These people [ATP org] think, they have something."

### Suspended Maradona flies back home to Argentina

From ANDREW MCEWEN in MILAN

DIEGO Maradona flew home to Argentina yesterday, a few hours before he was suspended for allegedly taking cocaine. He left a message saying that he needed peace, but would return whenever needed by the Italian football authorities.

Maradona is the subject of an investigation by magistrates into suspicions that he used cocaine. It is unconnected with the sporting case, which will be heard by a disciplinary commission on Saturday.

There were conflicting explanations as to why he was allowed to leave the country. The Italian teletext service said it was because he had a diplomatic passport given to him by President Menem of

Argentina a year ago. But Giuseppe Palumbo, head of the mobile police squad in Naples, said no order had been given for Maradona's passport to be withdrawn. He has not been charged with any offence.

Maradona arrived at Fiumicino airport in Rome late on Monday night to catch a flight to Buenos Aires at last yesterday with his manager, Mario Franchi.

The television channel, TG2, described this as "almost clandestine", but Maradona defended himself in a message to Naples supporters. "I want to confirm that I have never betrayed the principles which inspire faithful and correct sporting activity," he said. "All this

happened suddenly, as if by an obscure design. I continue to be at the disposition of the Italian authorities. Maradona has denied taking drugs to improve his sporting performance, but has neither confirmed nor denied using cocaine.

There is confusion in Italy as to whether a distinction should be made for recreational drugs taken privately, and sporting drugs.

When asked about the apparent finding of traces of cocaine in his urine, Maradona said: "To talk now about everything that has happened is useless because we cannot resolve anything. I want to talk only about sport and leave my lawyer to talk about other matters."

His suspension yesterday by the Italian league's disciplinary committee was an interim move. It will meet again in Milan to fix the length of the suspension. Most observers expect it to be two years, the maximum period.

Before leaving, Maradona received groups of supporters at his home and is reported to have told them that he would return to Italy "in a couple of weeks". His wife, Claudia, and daughters, Dalma and Giannina, left Italy on Sunday.

The general secretary of Fifa, Sepp Blatter said yesterday that the Maradona case was a one-off. "We don't think we have to go into action on a big scale because of this case. The reasons behind it probably have little to do with sports," he said.

"If everything one reads is confirmed, it is a somewhat tragic case for him personally. Blatter said Fifa would extend any Italian suspension of Maradona worldwide."



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### Hunter creates right impact

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE shape of the England squad for rugby union's World Cup should be indicated today when the party of 30 to tour Australia and Fiji in July will be announced. Although the party will have to be pared down to 26 for the World Cup in October, the selectors will not wish to depart from a squad which has the chance of a month together in the southern hemisphere, including international matches against both the best countries.

None of England's leading players, of either the first or second rank, has indicated his unavailability for the tour so that to extent the selectors are choosing from strength. Nor is there any question of this being a development tour: the one objective is the initial

World Cup meeting with New Zealand on October 3 and the subsequent group matches.

"Players have to maintain standards during the summer," Roger Umley, the coach, said. "Australia will be an important psychological part of the World Cup build-up. We will be going out there to win." No England team has beaten the Wallabies on their own ground.

It is safe to assume that the 21 players who composed the squad which won the grand slam in the five nations championship will be members of the party but the remaining nine may have been more difficult to determine. The England B management team - Graham Smith, Richard Best and Mike Slemen - have been

involved in the selection process and their charges have had a very mixed season.

Moreover, Stuart Barnes, the Bath stand-off half and captain, has made himself available within the last fortnight against his experience must be balanced loyalty to players such as David Pears, capped twice in Argentina last summer, who has worked so hard to bring up his game to the required standard.

The most likely member of the younger generation to tour is Ian Hunter, the Northampton full back. He has played in the B side on the wing as well as in his club position and the impact he has made on the selectors was shown when he was brought into the training party which went to Lanzarote.

THE Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) and the Scottish Football Association (SFA) are to have further talks on the possible use of Murrayfield for football matches following a series of recent discussions on the matter.

Murrayfield is one of a handful of stadiums in Scotland to have the requisite minimum of 10,000 numbered seats laid down by Fifa, football's world governing body, for the next World Cup qualifying matches. The other grounds in Scotland meeting this criterion are at Aberdeen, Perth and Inverness, which is undergoing an expansion programme.

Yesterday, James Farry, chief executive of the SFA, said: "The utilisation of Murrayfield for soccer

matches is still a live issue but at the moment no decision is being made until we know the outcome of the proposals to upgrade Hampden Park. The cost of this is estimated at £40 million of which we have been promised £5 million. The National Stadium Committee is now considering approaching the government for the remaining £35 million."

Hampden requires seating and cover to bring it up to the standards defined in Lord Justice Taylor's final report. Already £68 million have been spent on Hampden Park mainly in upgrading the terracing but the sums required for the complete modernisation of the stadium may not be forthcoming.

Farry sees Murrayfield as part of an alternative where international matches would be staged at grounds on a "no basis".

Even if the Hampden is approved then Murrayfield could still figure in the plans for "selected matches". Farry also indicated that Murrayfield could be either of the two Edinburgh clubs, Hibernian and Hearts.

Yesterday, Bill Houston, SRU secretary, gave weight to the possibility of Murrayfield's use for matches when he said that development plans for the stadium included floodlights.

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